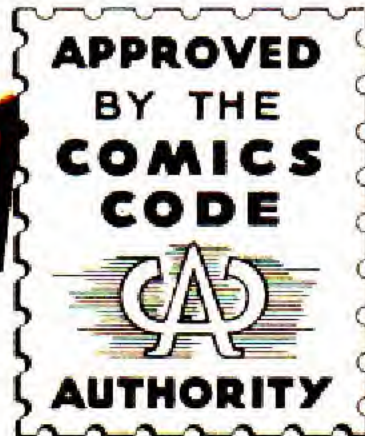




and

STRAIGHT
ARROW

NO. 48



10c



Fred Meagher



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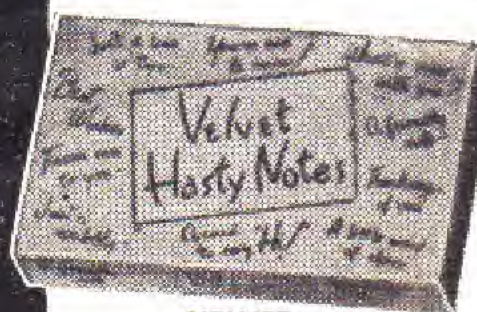
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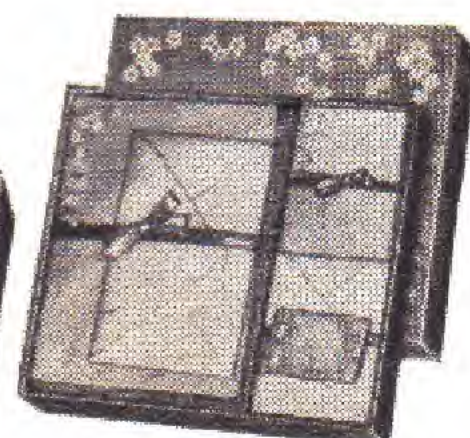
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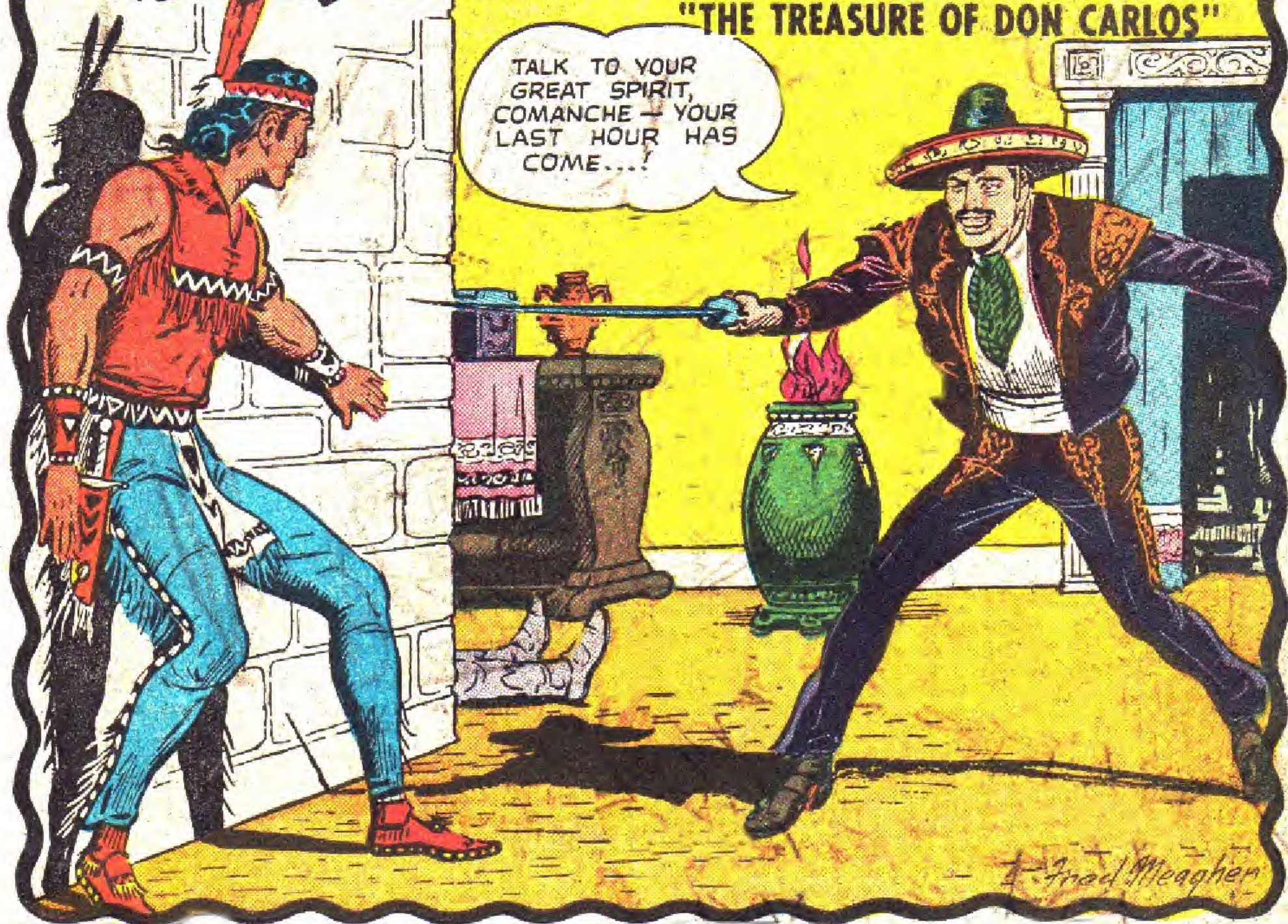
If writing for organ-
ization, give its name

STRAIGHT ARROW

TERRIFIED MEXICAN PEONS CALL HIM **DON DIABLO**. AMERICAN RANCHERS KNOW HIM AS **DON CARLOS RAMIREZ**, FIERY BANDIT AND OUTLAW KING. HIS RAIDS ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE ARE SWIFT AND DEADLY...

ONLY A STRANGE LEGEND THREATENS **DON DIABLO**... BUT—WHAT CAN **STRAIGHT ARROW** HAVE TO DO WITH—A LEGEND? READ AND SEE—AND TRY TO GUESS FOR YOURSELF THE QUEER HIDING PLACE OF—
"THE TREASURE OF DON CARLOS"

TALK TO YOUR GREAT SPIRIT, COMANCHE—YOUR LAST HOUR HAS COME...!



MASKED MEN IN THE NIGHT! LANTERN LIGHT ON WEAPONS AND GLITTERING, GREEDY EYES!

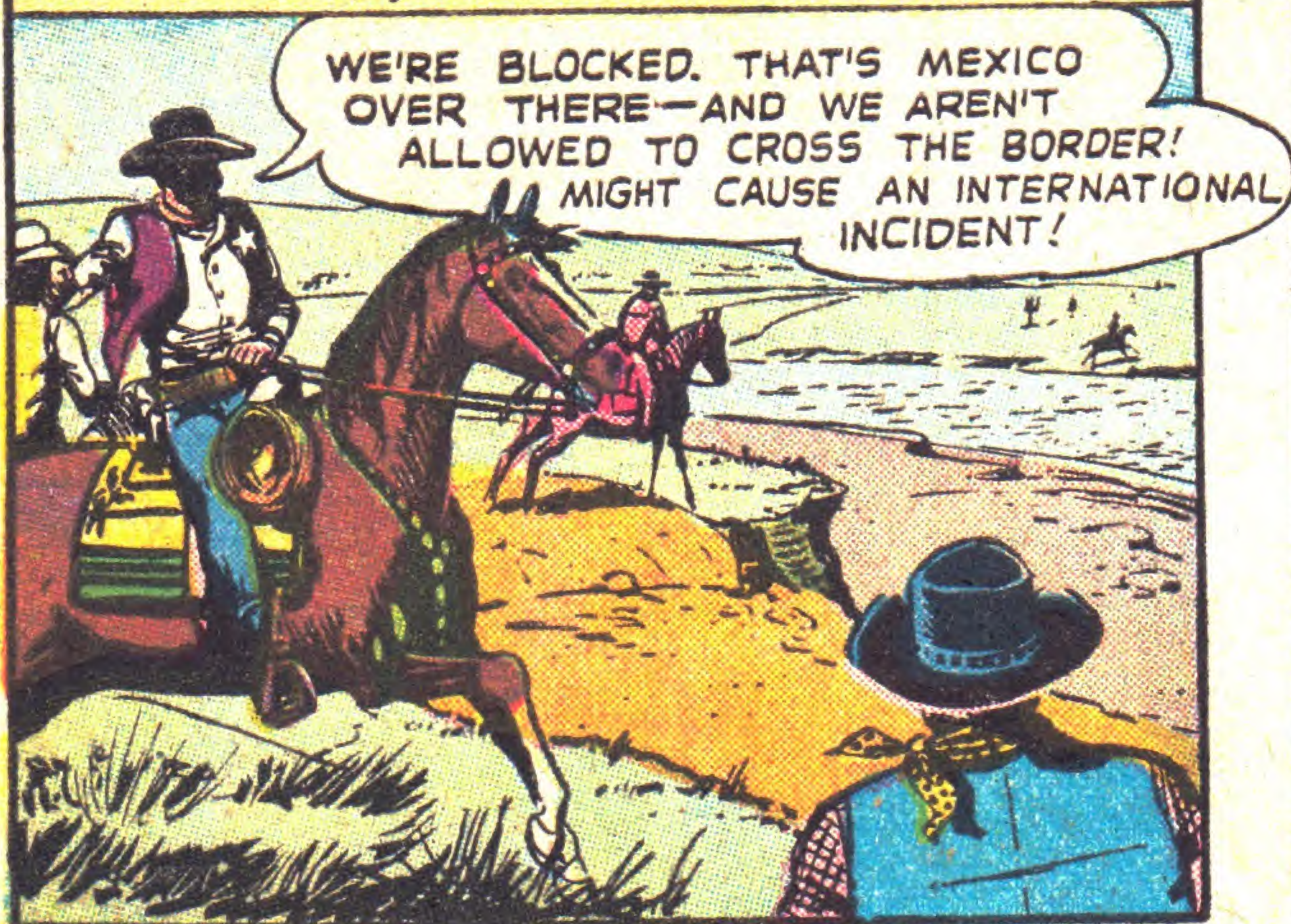
DO NOT MOVE, SENORS! DON CARLOS HAS PAID YOU A VEE-SIT!



GRACIAS, SENORES! AND NOW—ADIOS!



HIS FLIGHT ACROSS THE SLUGGISH RIO GRANDE IS SWIFT AND SILENT. PURSUING POSSES REIN UP SHORT, HELPLESS TO FOLLOW—

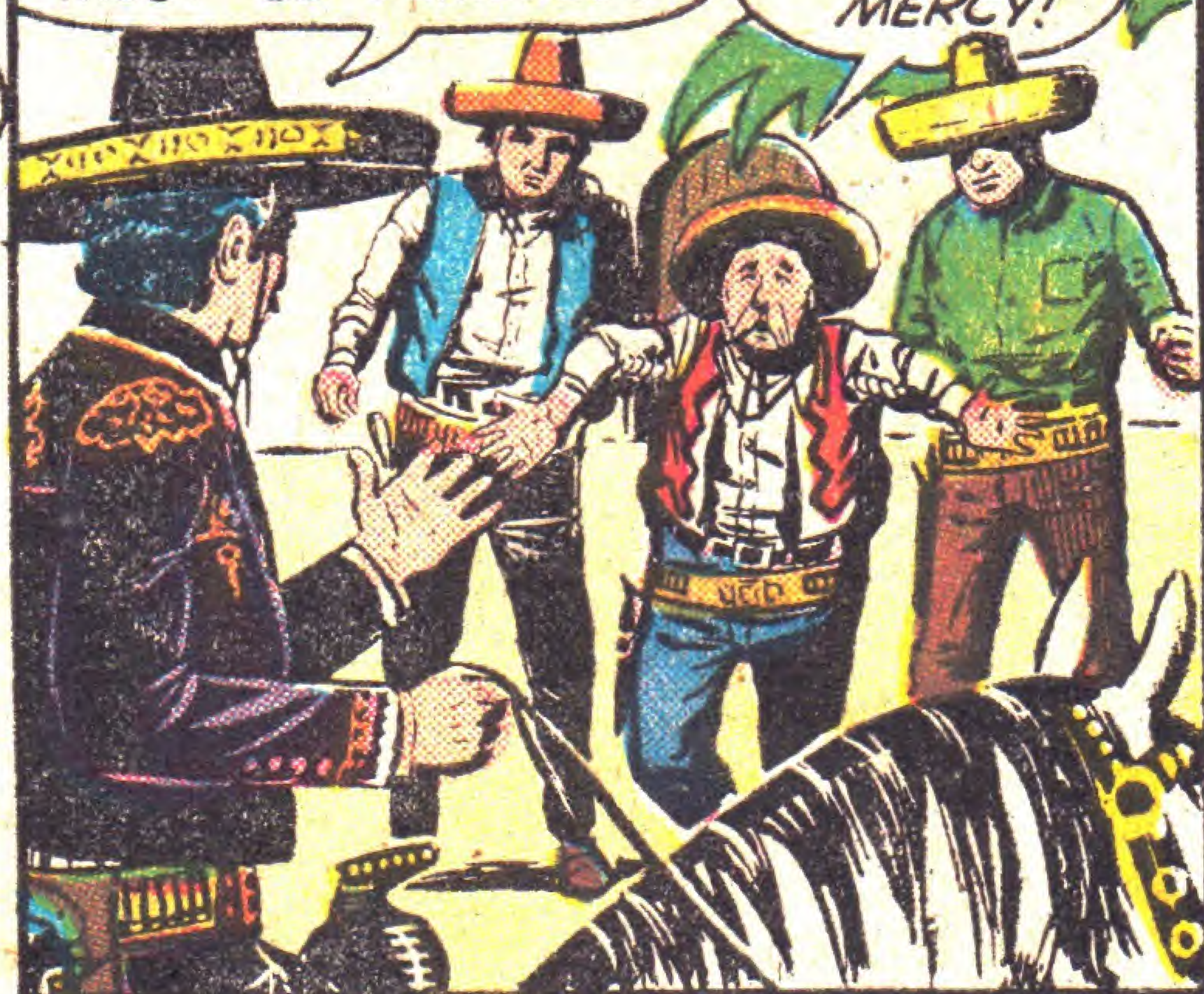


WE'RE BLOCKED. THAT'S MEXICO OVER THERE—AND WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO CROSS THE BORDER! IT MIGHT CAUSE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT!

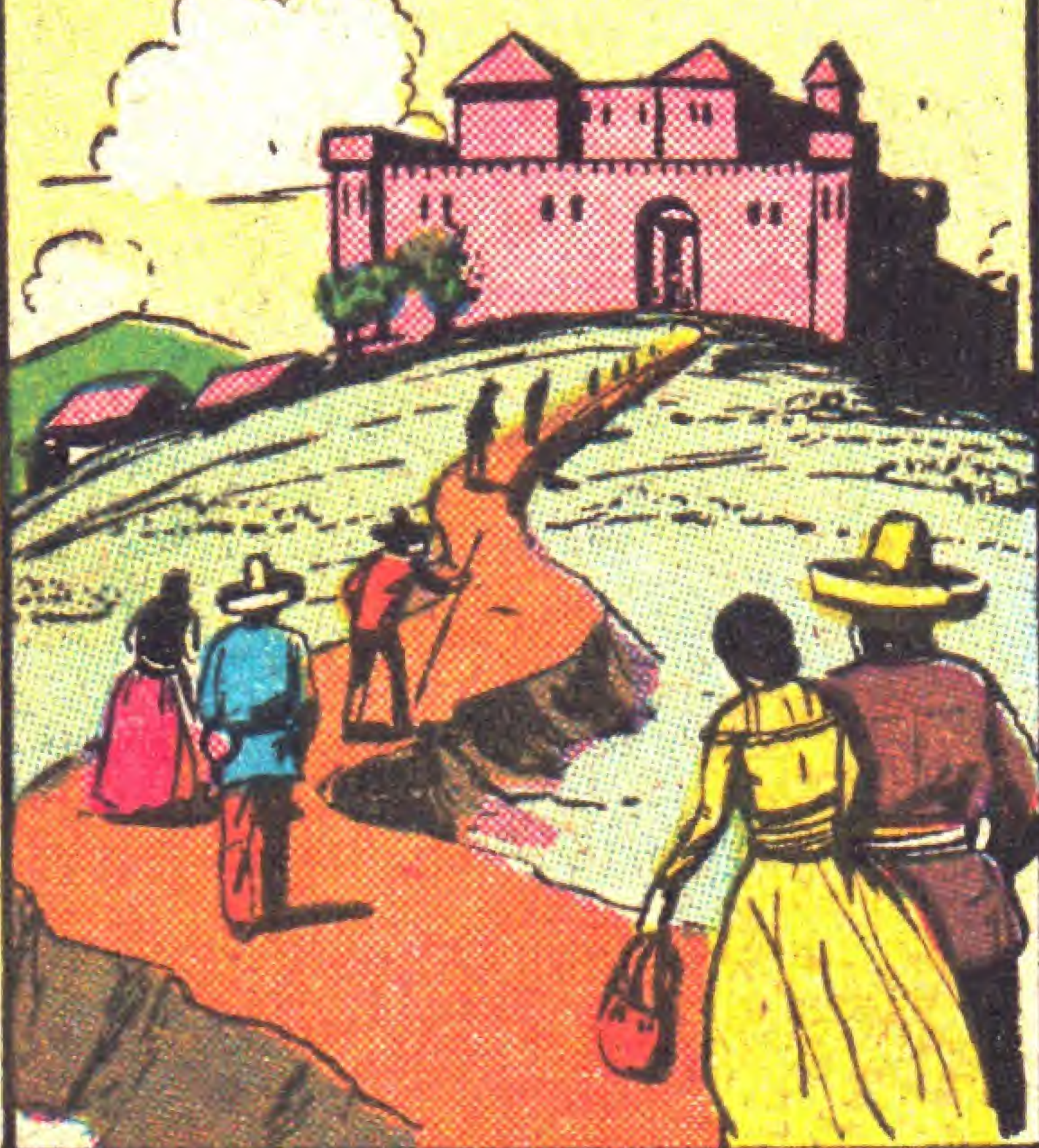
IN MEXICO, DON CARLOS RULES LIKE A FEUDAL LORD—

DON MIGUEL, YOU HAVE DISPLEASED ME! YOU MUST BE PUNISHED!

NO, NO! DON CARLOS—HAVE MERCY!

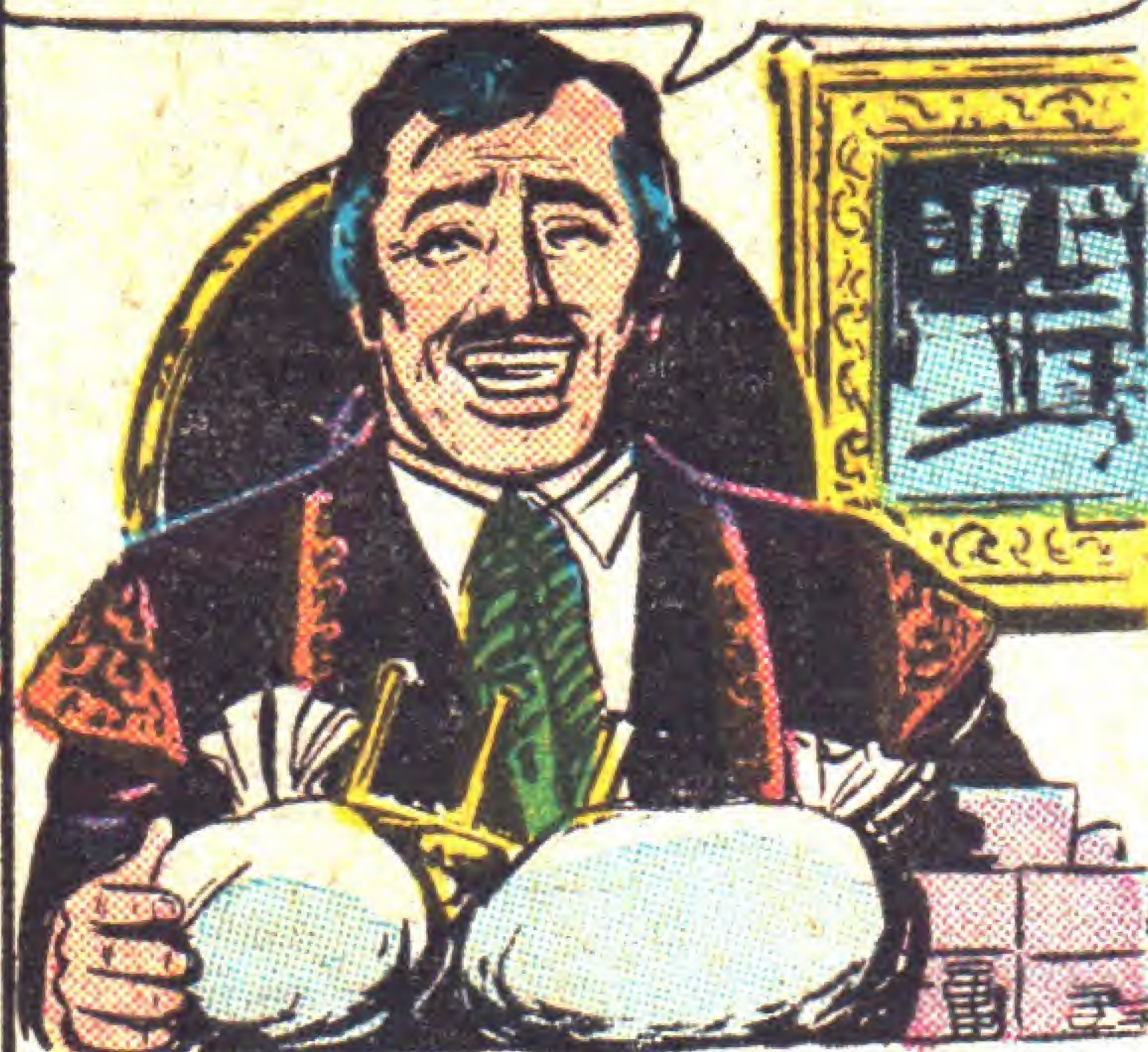


PEASANT FEET PLOD UP THE HILL SLOPES TO HIS STONE CASTLE. PEASANT HANDS BEAR GIFTS—TRIBUTE TO INJUSTICE!

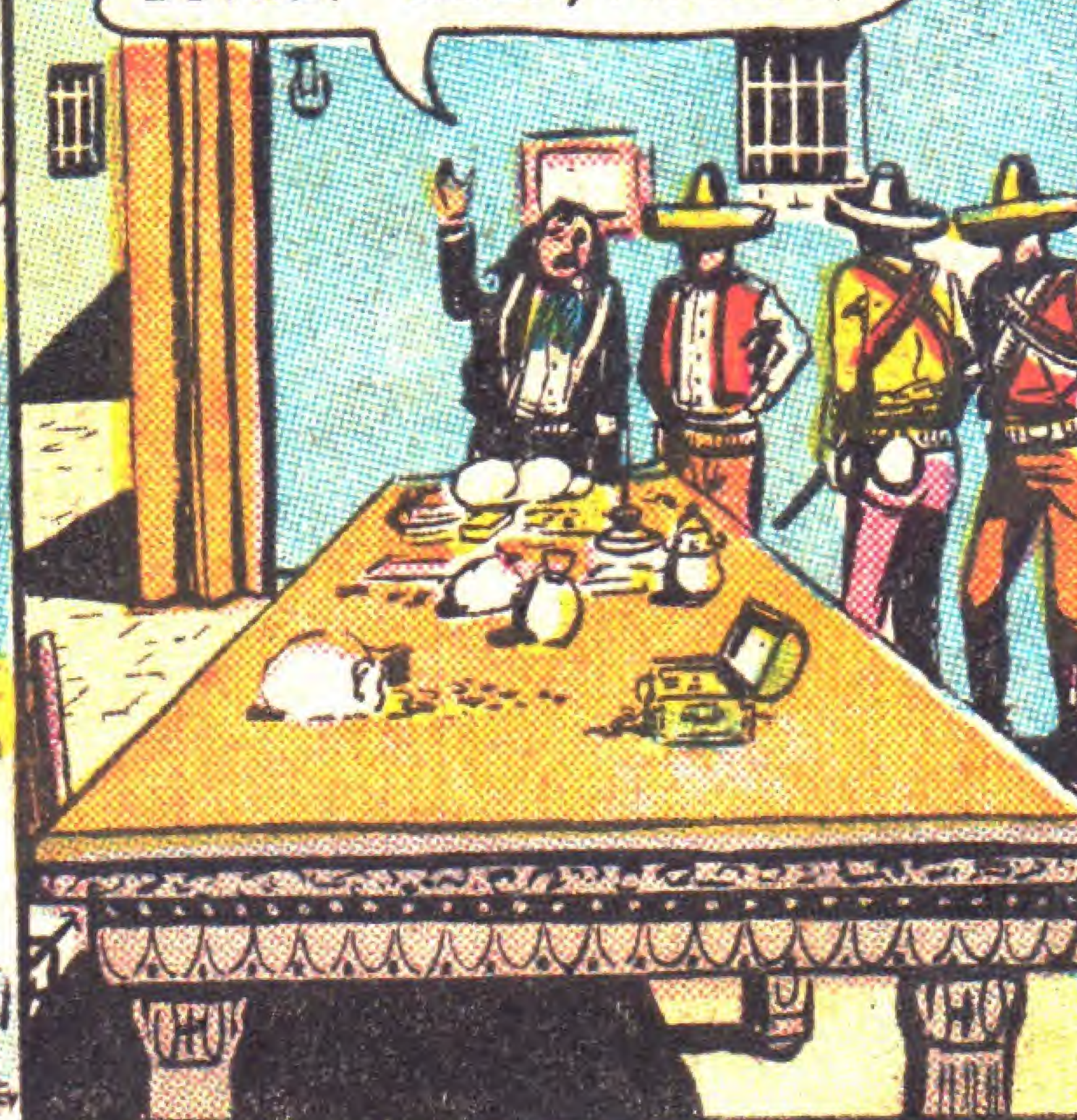


IN HIS GREAT HALL, DON CARLOS LAUGHS AS HE SURVEYS HIS LOOT—

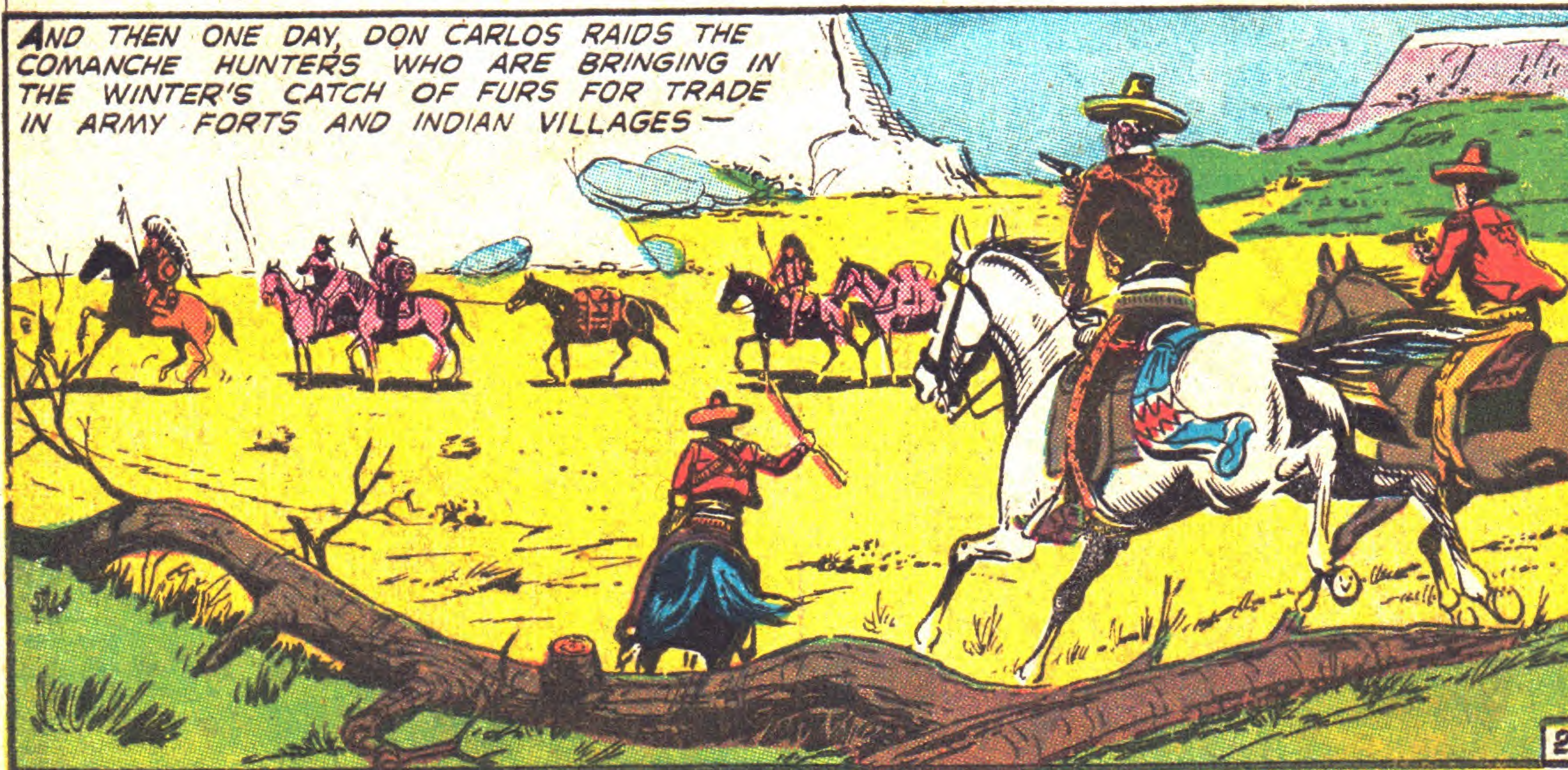
A LEGEND SAYS THIS CASTLE AND ITS OWNER SHALL HAVE GOOD FORTUNE—UNTIL A THIN STICK SHALL HOLD UP ITS STONES FROM FALLING! HAI!



HOW COULD A LITTLE STICK HOLD UP THEES CASTLE? IT'S JUST AN OLD WIVES' TALE! HAI! LET US RIDE FOR MORE OF THEES LOVELY GOLD, AMIGOS!



AND THEN ONE DAY, DON CARLOS RAIDS THE COMANCHE HUNTERS WHO ARE BRINGING IN THE WINTER'S CATCH OF FURS FOR TRADE IN ARMY FORTS AND INDIAN VILLAGES—



THAT NIGHT, THE COMANCHES DECIDE ON RETALIATION. AN OLD CHIEF SPEAKS AT THE COUNCIL FIRES —



MANY CANNOT GO INTO MEXICO WITHOUT STIRRING UP THE PONY SOLDIERS AGAINST US. BUT **ONE** MAN—OUR **BEST** MAN!—CAN GO! THAT MAN IS **STRAIGHT ARROW!**

PICKED BY TRIBAL COUNCIL, STRAIGHT ARROW CAN SCARCELY REFUSE THE HONOR. ALONE AND AT A FAST PACE, HE RIDES SOUTH INTO MEXICO. TWO DAYS LATER HE IS IN SANTA ELENA, A SLEEPING LITTLE TOWN SOUTH OF THE BORDER —



SUDDENLY THE DOORS OF THE CANTINA SLAM OPEN...



HOLA, AMIGO! DON CARLOS HAS SENT US FOR HIS TRIBUTE!

SENORS, I HAVE NO MONEY FOR DON CARLOS!

YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR NOT HAVING MONEY WHEN DON CARLOS ASKS FOR IT?



PLEASE, SENOR! PLEASE!

I'VE JUST BEGUN MY LUNCH, BOYS. I DETEST VIOLENCE WHEN I'M EATING! AND JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU TWO KEEP THE PEACE —



—KEEP YOUR HEADS TOGETHER WHILE I FINISH MY MEAL!



STRAIGHT ARROW SMILES, BUT HIS SMILE IS TIGHT, AND HIS EYES ARE BRIGHT WITH CHALLENGE. THE TWO BANDITTI DECIDE TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE, RATHER THAN RISK THE TROUBLE THEY SEE WAITING FOR THEM!

THERE, THAT'S BETTER! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE PEACE AND QUIET IN WHICH TO ENJOY ONE'S MEALS!



WHEN THE MEAL COMES TO AN END—

THAT COMANCHE EES A BAD ONE!

AI! JUST REMEMBERING THE WAY HE LOOKED AT US—LIKE A WOLF AT A BEEG FAT SHEEP—MAKES ME SHIVER!



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, SENOR. BUT EET IS USELESS TO FIGHT **SENOR DIABLO**, WHO EES DON CARLO. WE MUST FLEE!

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO RUN AWAY!



INSTEAD OF FLEEING, THE GREAT COMANCHE WAR CHIEF ADVANCES! THAT NIGHT, AS THE MOON RIDES HIGH....



A HAND HOOKS THE TOP OF THE CASTLE WALL—



HIS MOCCASINED FEET MAKE NO SOUND AS HE MOVES THROUGH THE STONE CORRIDORS...



THEN—

NO! IT CAN'T BE!



THE HEART OF THE COMANCHE WAR CHIEF IS WRUNG WITH PITY. HERE IN THE DUNGEONS OF THE CASTLE ARE THE DON'S PRISONERS....

THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO REFUSE TO PAY HIM TRIBUTE! HE IMPRISONS THEM, AS IF HE WERE THE LAW AROUND THESE PARTS!



IF **HE** CAN PUT THEM BEHIND BARS, I CAN GET THEM OUT FROM BEHIND BARS, IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE!

THE CREAK OF RASPING STEEL BRINGS A STARTLED GUARD—

HOLA! AN INDIAN—FREEING THE PRISONERS!

—WHO RUNS WITH HIS NEWS TO HIS MASTER!

AN INDIAN FREEING MY PRISONERS! DON'T BOTHER ME WITH SUCH NONSENSE. TAKE A DOZEN MEN AND CAPTURE THIS LOCO COMANCHE AND THROW HIM IN THE DUNGEONS WITH THE OTHERS!

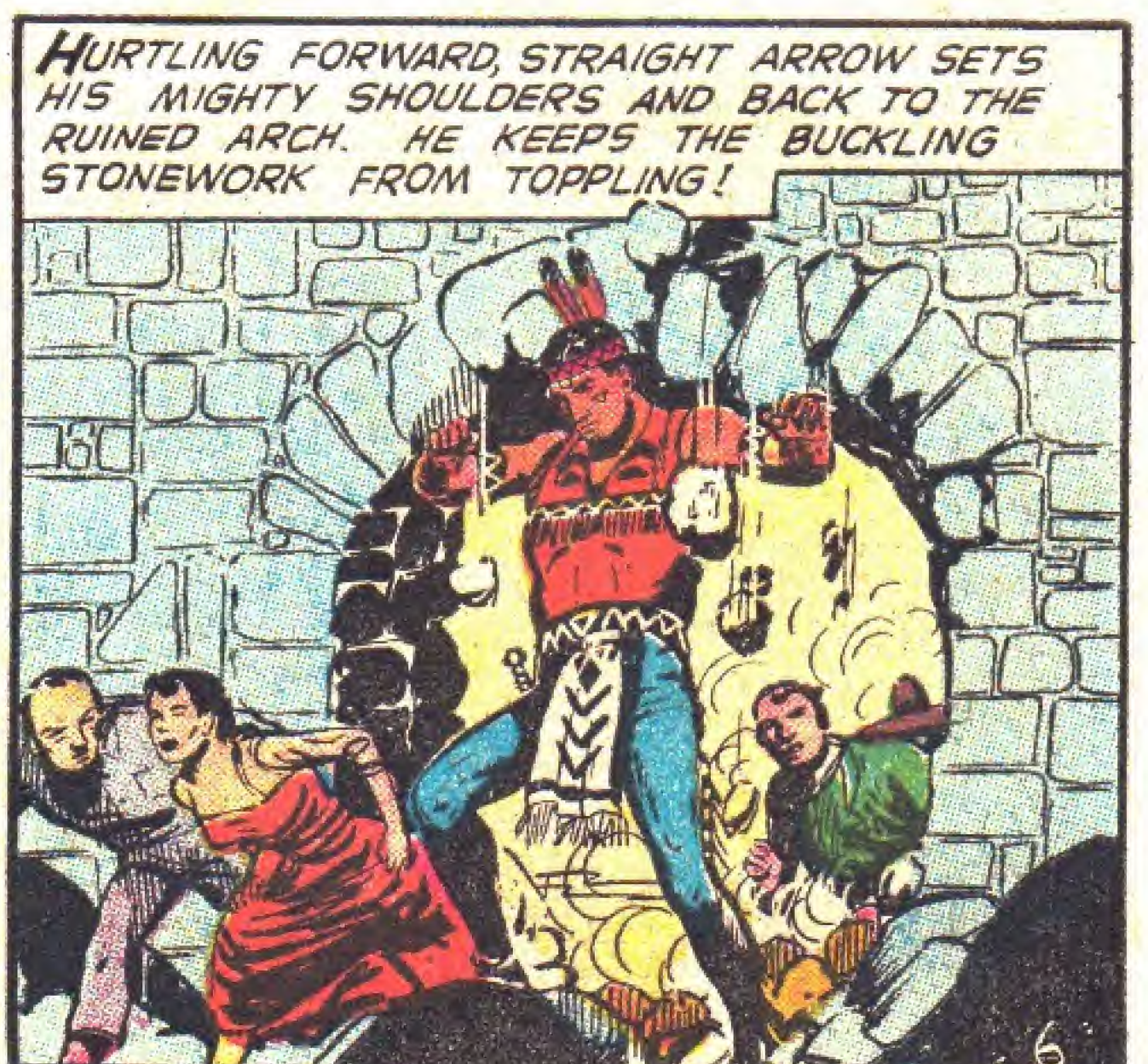
SI, SEÑOR!

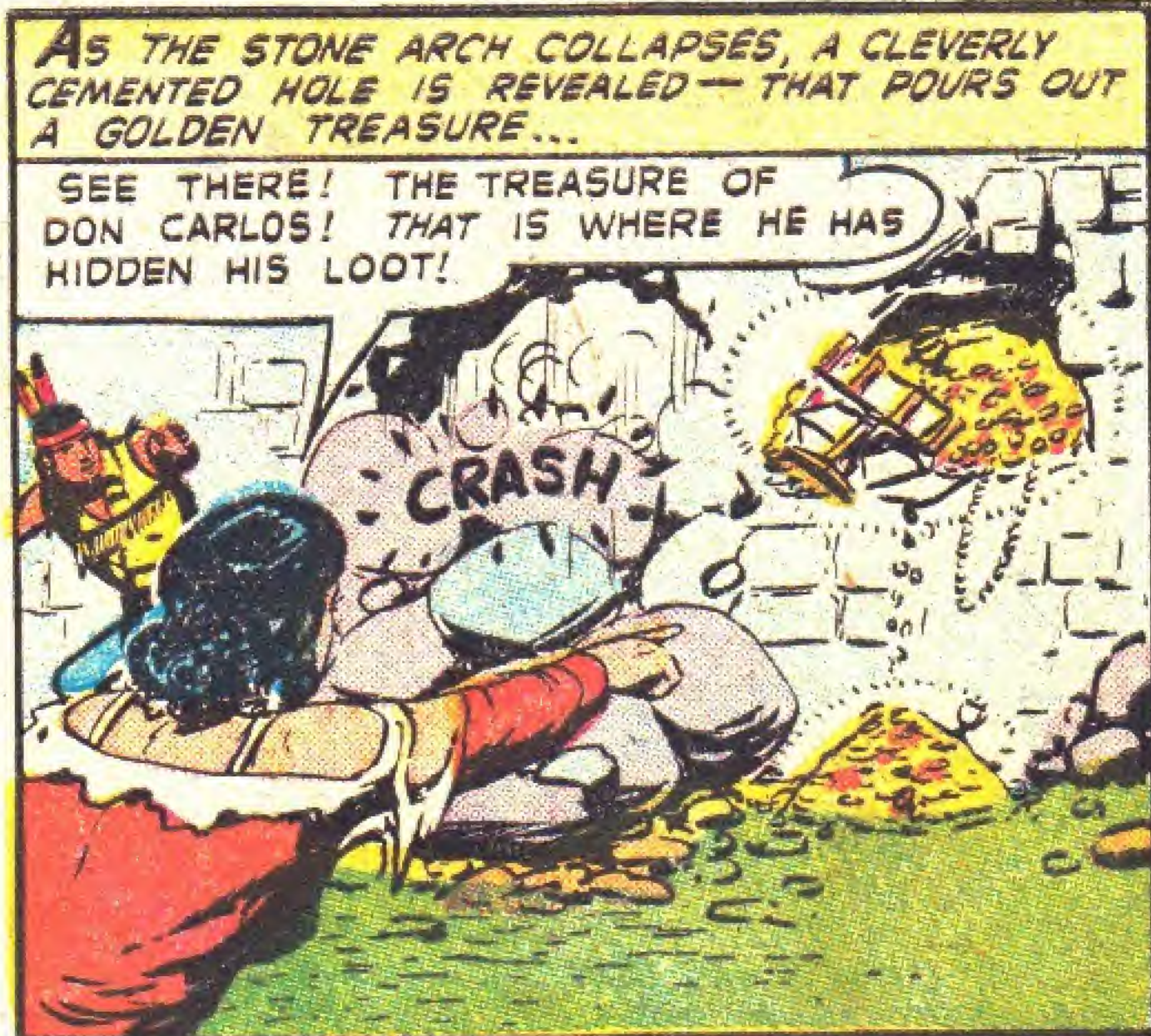


BUT THE "LOCO" COMANCHE HAS OTHER IDEAS!

I DIDN'T INVITE ANY OF YOU MEN, BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE—JOIN THE PARTY!







STRAIGHT ARROW

INTO THE FAR NORTHLAND, WHERE THE TOTEM POLE AND IGLOO MARK THE FROZEN SNOWS OF THE ESKIMO, TRAVELS STRAIGHT ARROW. HIS MISSION SEEMS HOPELESS! HIS TASK IS GARGANTUAN! FOR NO ONE MAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO FIGHT AND OVERCOME THE GIANT ESKIMO, WALRUS TUSK, WITH HIS DEADLY WOLVES AND POLAR BEAR. WHAT CHANCE HAS STRAIGHT ARROW AGAINST THE —

"TYRANT OF THE SNOWS"

IF MY TRAINED POLAR BEAR DOESN'T GET YOU, STRAIGHT ARROW — MY HARPOON WILL!



Fred Meagher

A BENT AND WRINKLED OLD MAN COMES OUT OF THE NORTH, CARRYING A GREAT HORN WEAPON IN HIS HAND —



HE TELLS HIS TALE IN BLACKFOOT LODGES AND IN CHEYENNE TEPEES...

TO ANY MAN THAT CAN BEND THE BOW, I WILL TELL A TALE — AND REWARD HIM WITH IT!



MANY STRONG WARRIORS TRY TO BEND THE BOW, BUT ALL FAIL! IN DESPAIR, THE OLD MAN TRAVELS SOUTH INTO THE SUNNY LANDS OF THE COMANCHES AND KIWAS...

STRAIGHT ARROW CAN BEND YOUR BOW!

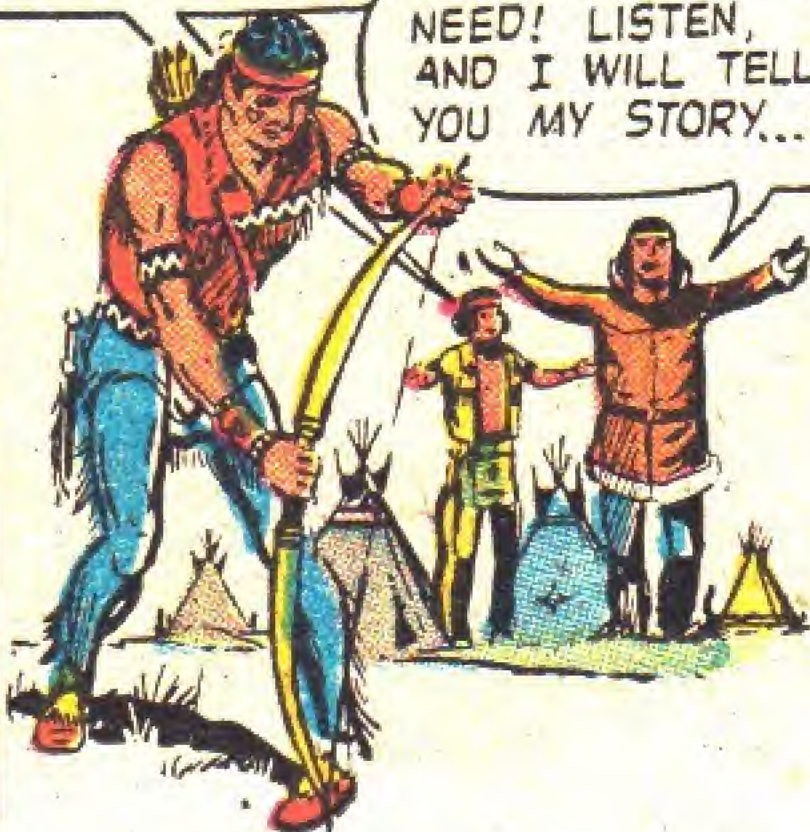


WHEN THE GREAT COMANCHE WAR CHIEF ARRIVES IN THE VILLAGE, TIOGA PLEADS WITH HIM TO MAKE THE ATTEMPT. THEN

SEE? I TOLD YOU HE COULD DO IT!

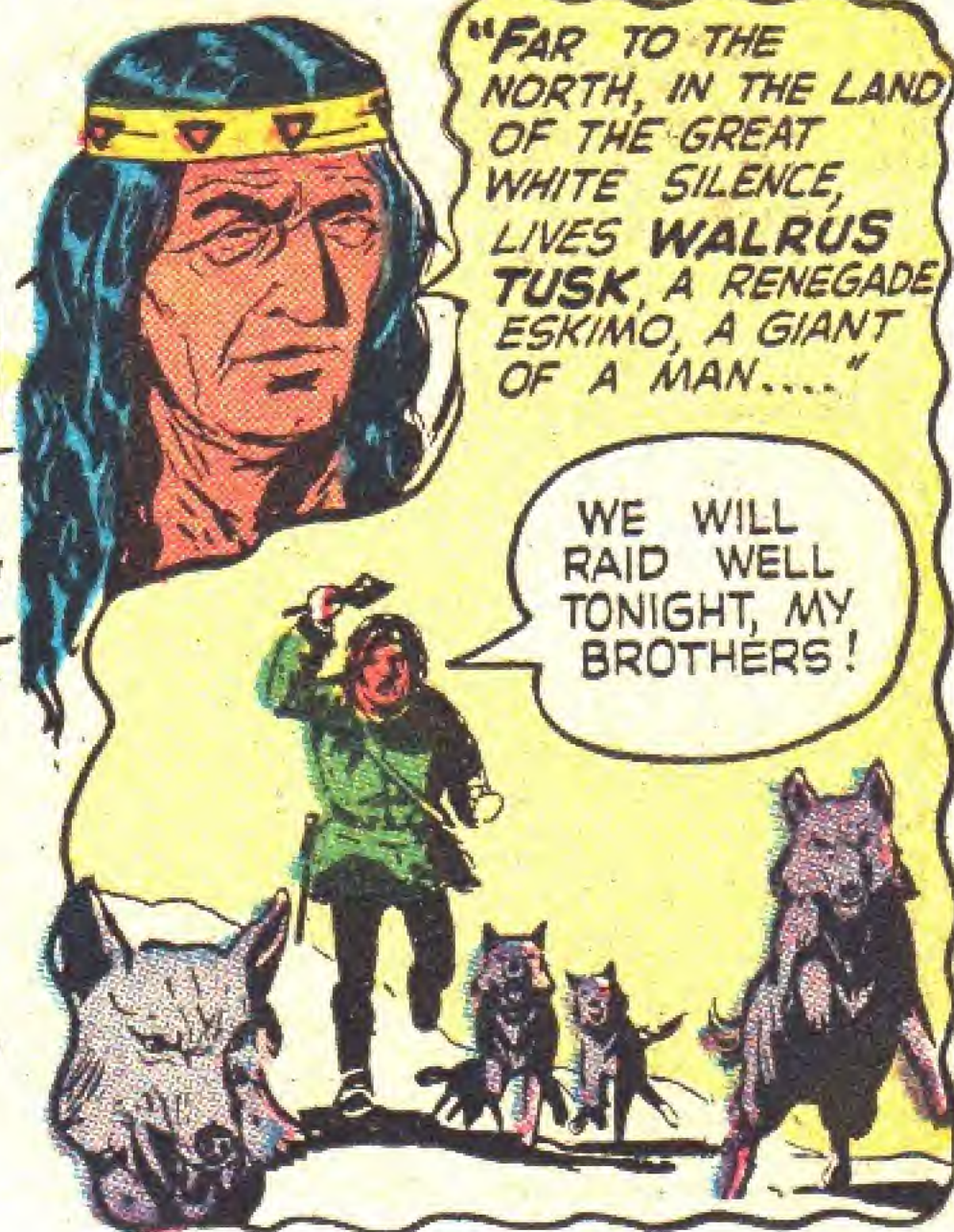
AIE! AT LAST I'VE FOUND THE MAN I

NEED! LISTEN, AND I WILL TELL YOU MY STORY...



"FAR TO THE NORTH, IN THE LAND OF THE GREAT WHITE SILENCE, LIVES WALRUS TUSK, A RENEGADE ESKIMO, A GIANT OF A MAN..."

WE WILL RAID WELL TONIGHT, MY BROTHERS!



"HE RAIDS WITH HIS TRAINED WOLVES AND A GREAT POLO BEAR. MY PEOPLE ARE HELPLESS AGAINST HIM!"

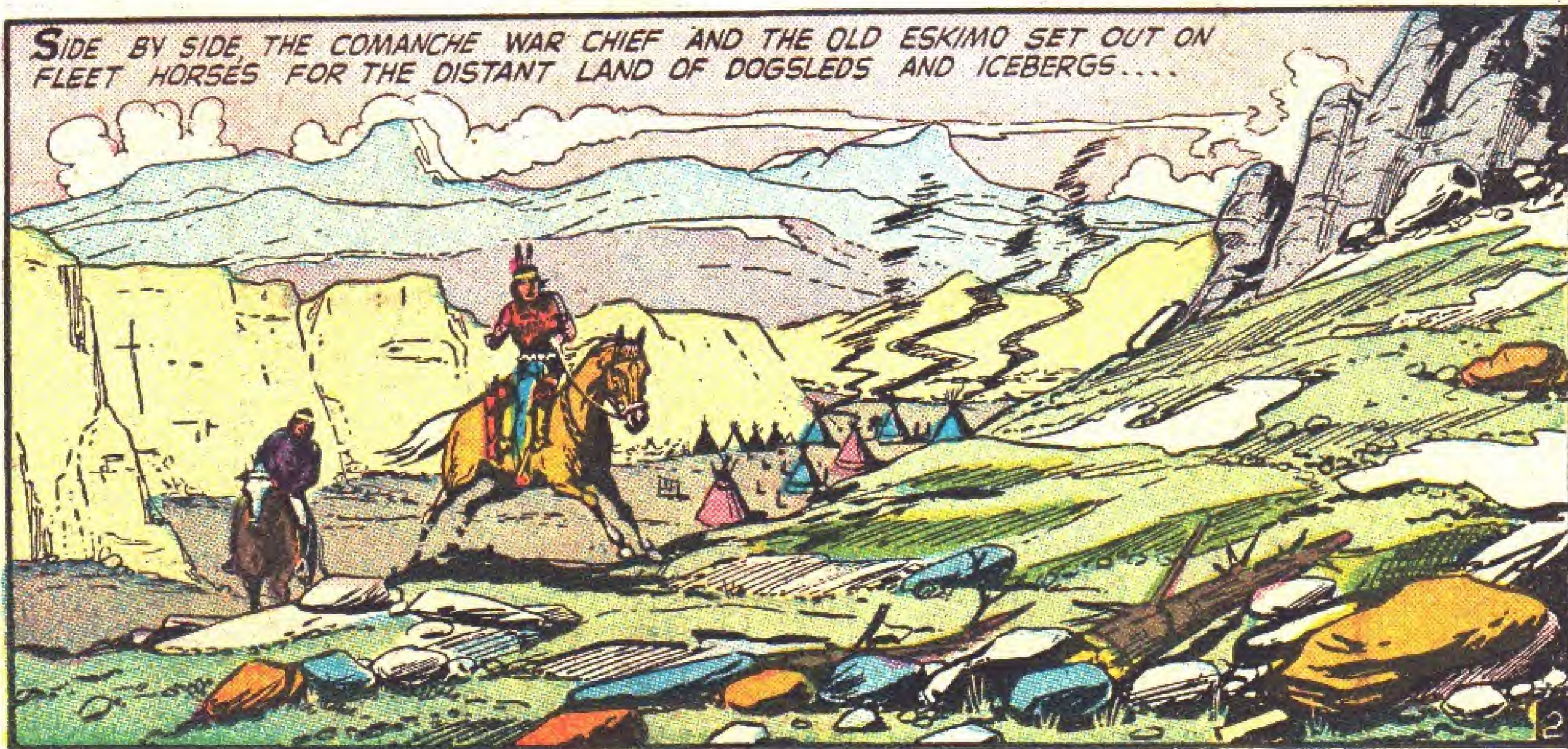


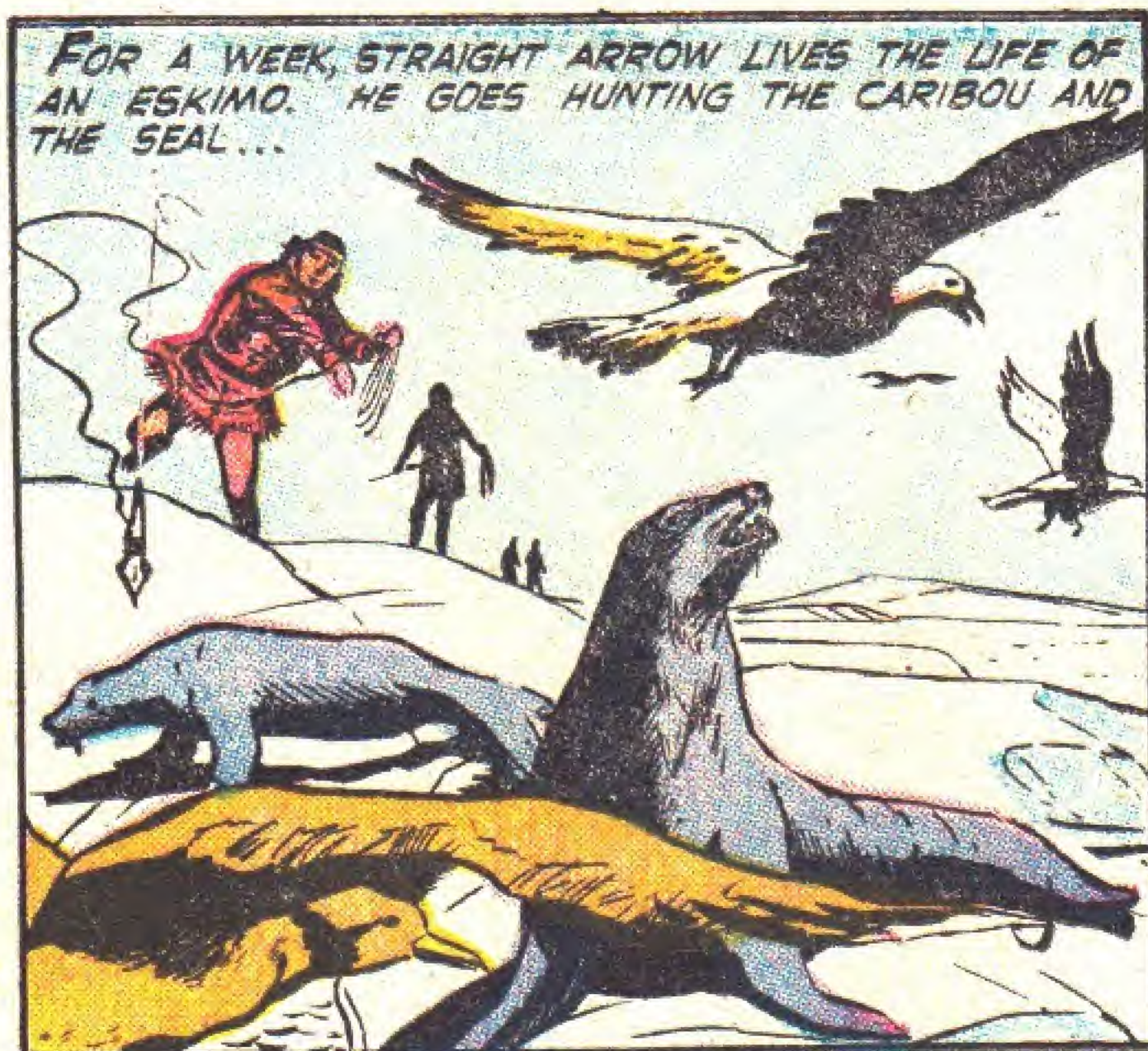
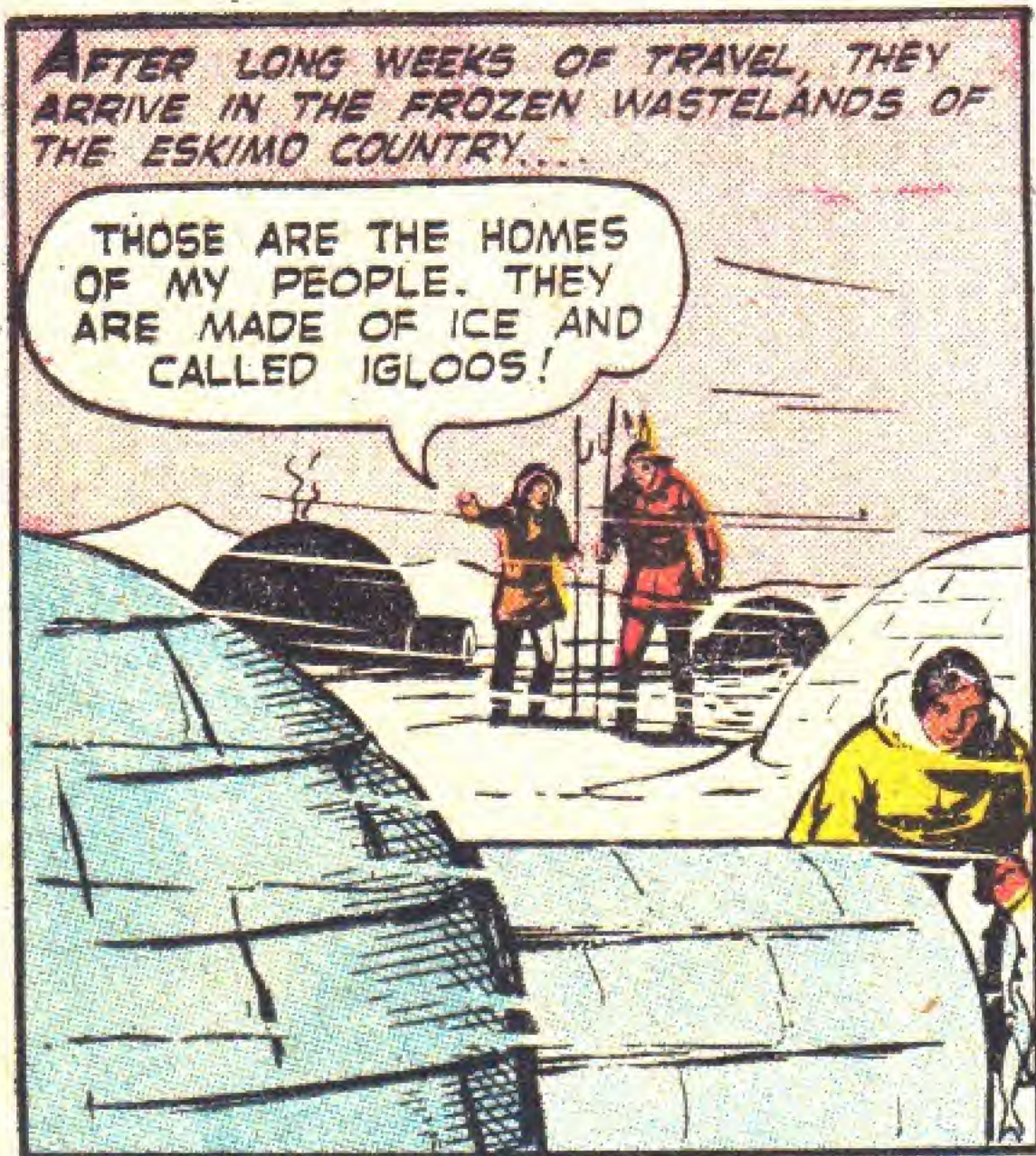
THIS IS HIS BOW. HE LOST IT LAST TIME HE CAME RAIDING. COME WITH ME AND DESTROY THIS ENEMY OF MY PEOPLE, STRAIGHT ARROW—AND THE BOW IS YOURS!

I WILL COME WITH YOU, NOT JUST TO EARN THE BOW, BUT BECAUSE ALL EVIL THINGS SHOULD BE DESTROYED!



SIDE BY SIDE, THE COMANCHE WAR CHIEF AND THE OLD ESKIMO SET OUT ON FLEET HORSES FOR THE DISTANT LAND OF DOGSLEDS AND ICEBERGS....





ONE NIGHT, OUT OF THE ETERNAL SILENCE COMES THE GIANT **WALRUS TUSK**—!



AND THEN,—LIKE AN ARROW FROM HIS GREAT HORN BOW—STRAIGHT ARROW HURTLES FORWARD—!



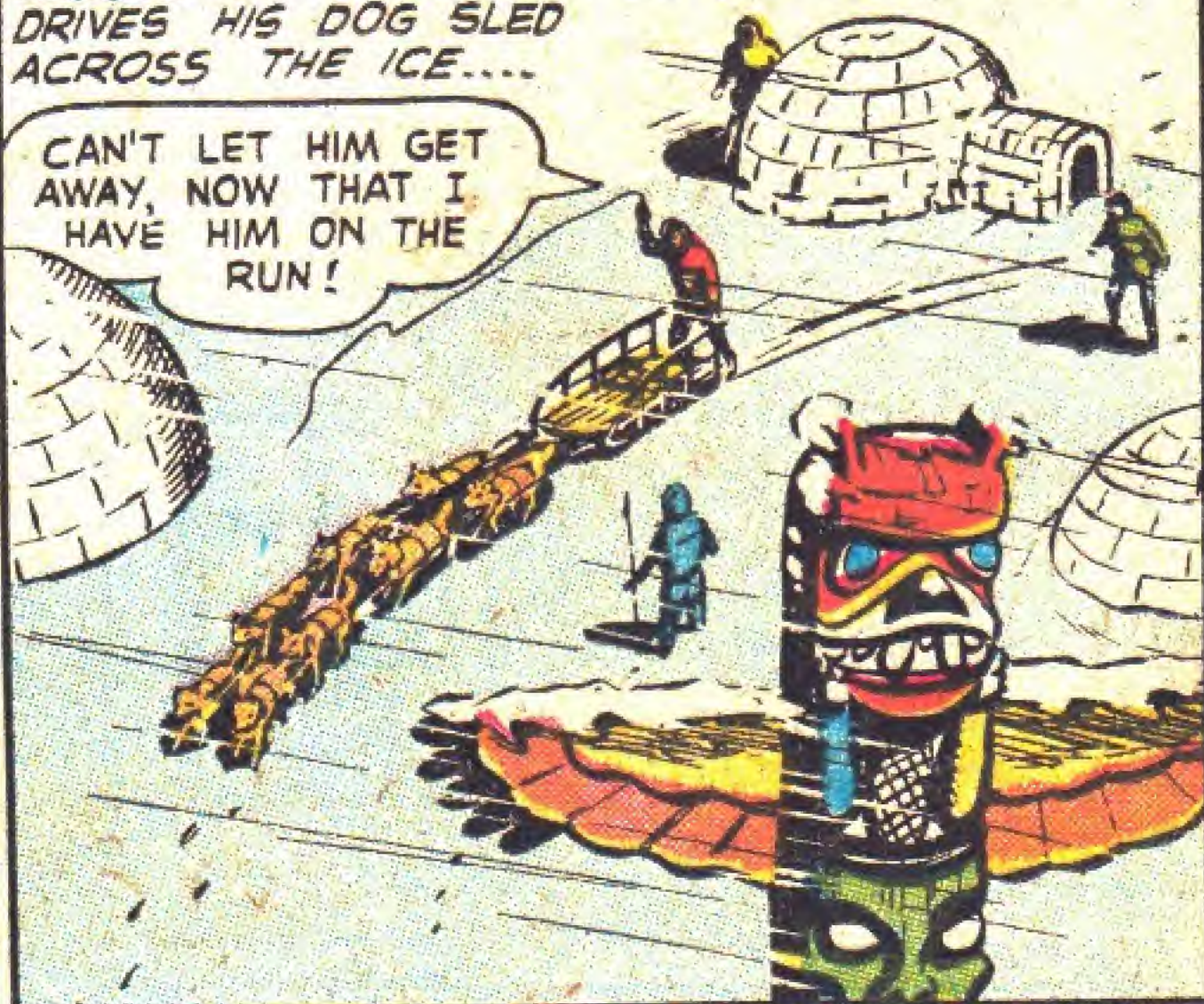
WITH DESPERATE STRENGTH, WALRUS TUSK PULLS HIMSELF FREE AND RACES OFF....

RUN, MY BROTHERS!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



THE ETERNAL SILENCE OF THE FROZEN SNOWS CLOSES IN AROUND HIM AS THE COMANCHE DRIVES HIS DOG SLED ACROSS THE ICE....

CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY, NOW THAT I HAVE HIM ON THE RUN!

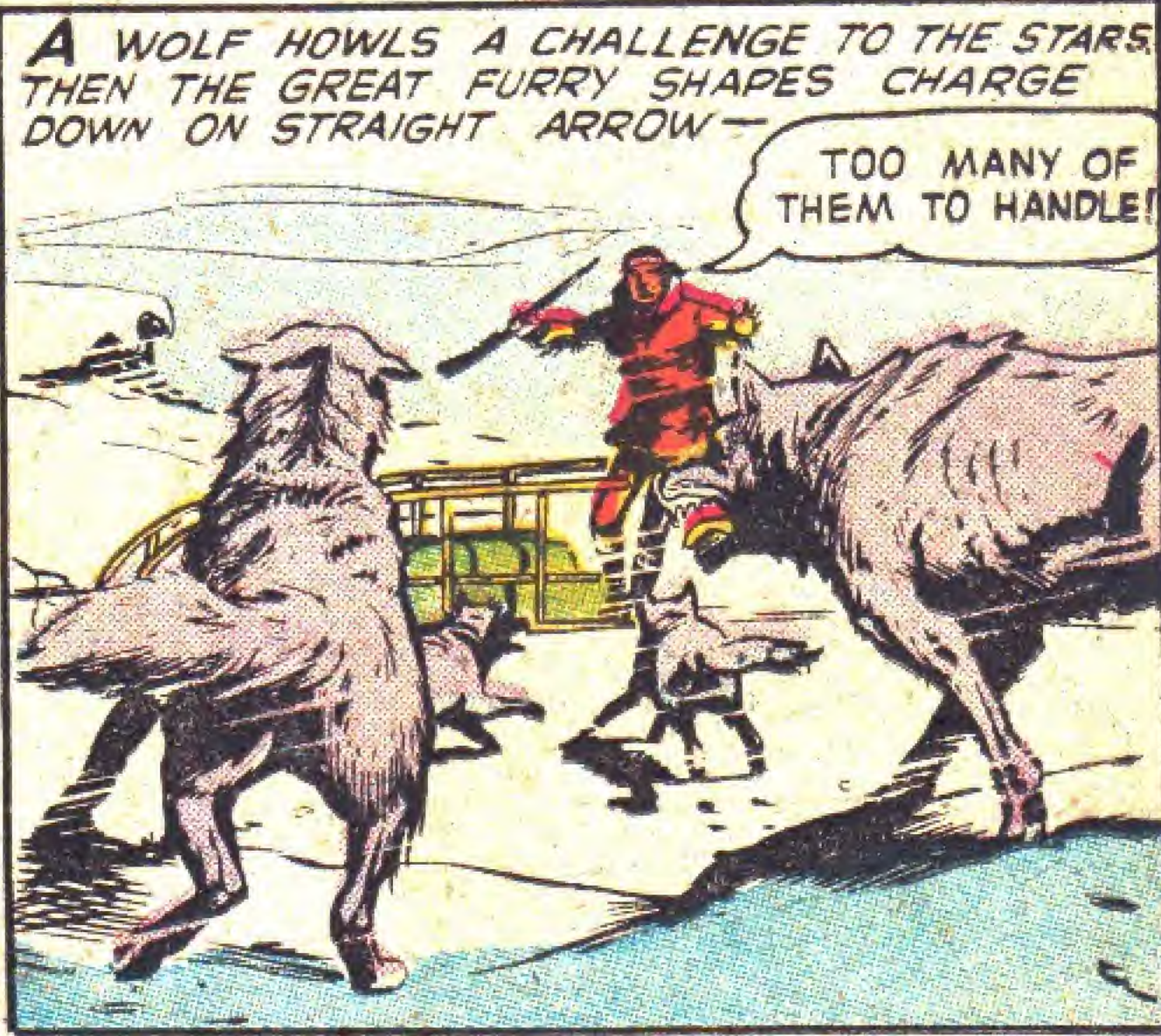


AN EVIL MAN PURSUES ME. MY BROTHERS! GO TO HIM. SLAY HIM!



A WOLF HOWLS A CHALLENGE TO THE STARS. THEN THE GREAT FURRY SHAPES CHARGE DOWN ON STRAIGHT ARROW—

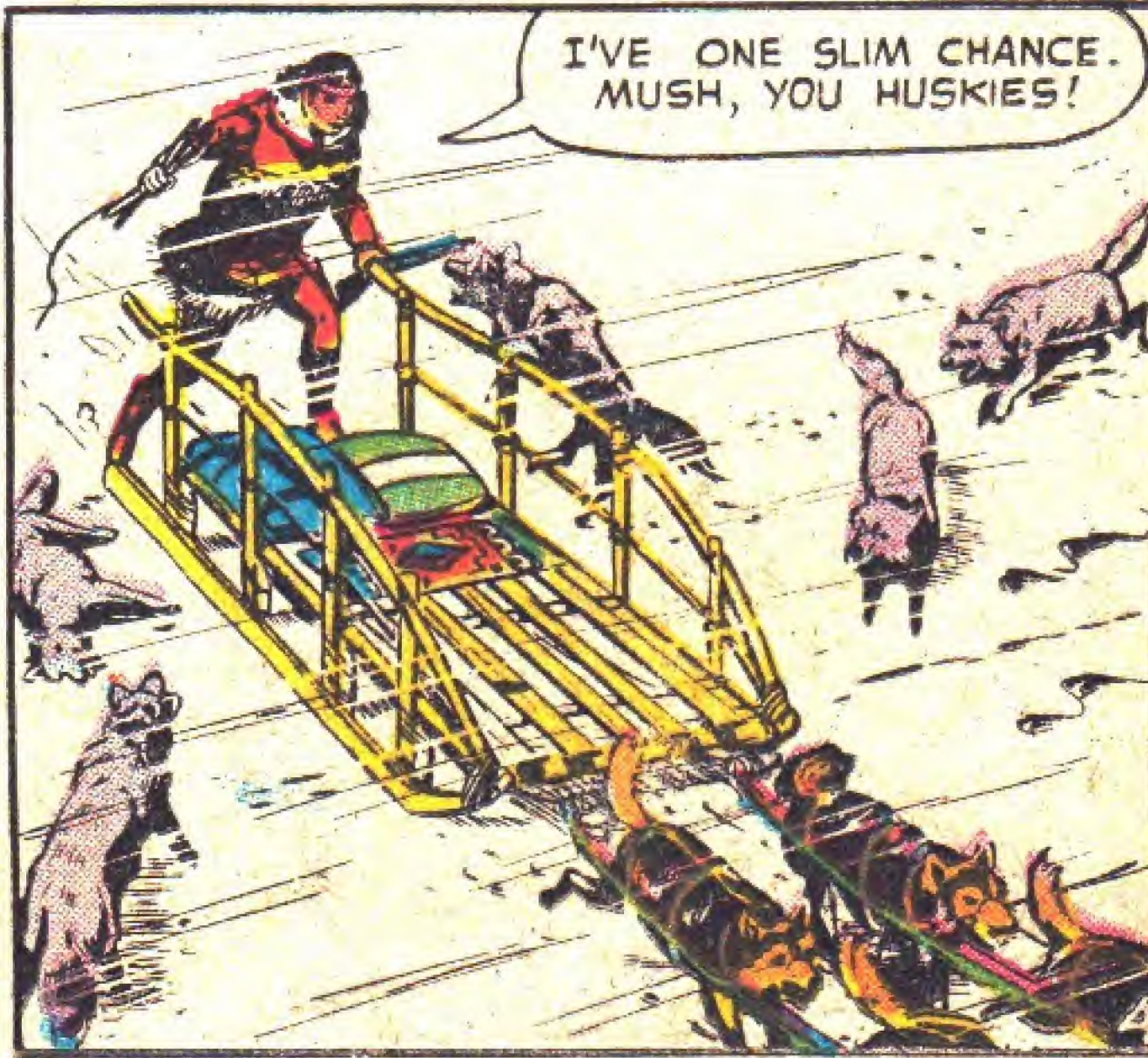
TOO MANY OF THEM TO HANDLE!



I DROP ONE—AND TWO MORE TAKE HIS PLACE!



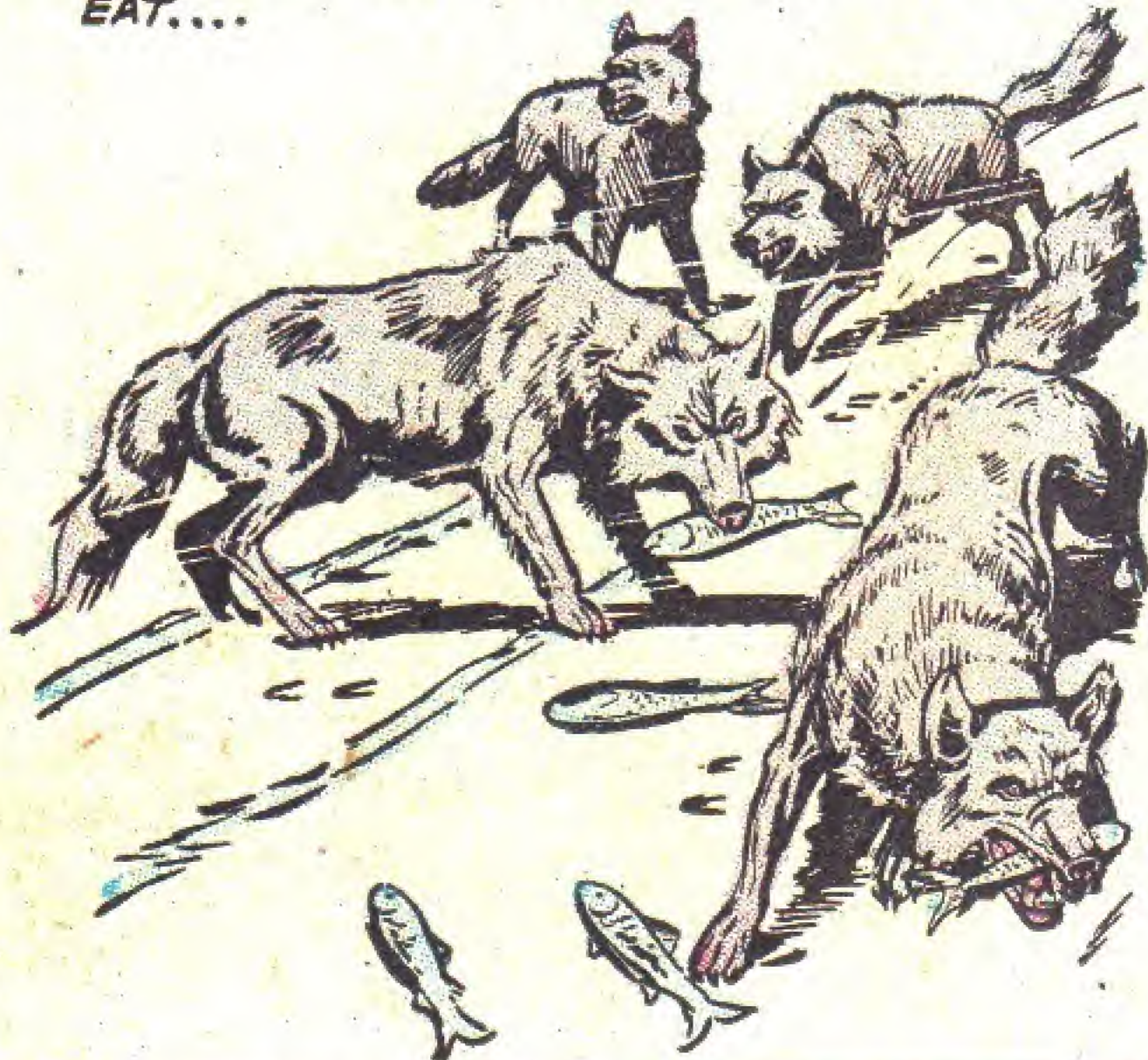
I'VE ONE SLIM CHANCE. MUSH, YOU HUSKIES!



AS HE FLEES, STRAIGHT ARROW TOSSES FROZEN FISH AND MEAT OUT ONTO THE SNOWS BEHIND HIM....



THE STARVED WOLVES CANNOT RESIST THE SMELL OF FOOD. THEY STOP AND EAT....



THUS GIVING STRAIGHT ARROW A CHANCE TO ESCAPE THROUGH AN ICY PASS!



BUT WALRUS TUSK IS WAITING IN AMBUSH —

GOT YOU WHERE I WANT YOU!



ONCE AGAIN THESE TWO MIGHTY FOES LOCK IN MORTAL COMBAT —



HIS NERVE SHATTERED BY THE STRENGTH OF STRAIGHT ARROW, THE RENEGADE ESKIMO AGAIN TAKES TO HIS HEELS....

THAT INDIAN ISN'T HUMAN! HE'S GOT THE STRENGTH OF — MY POLAR BEAR!

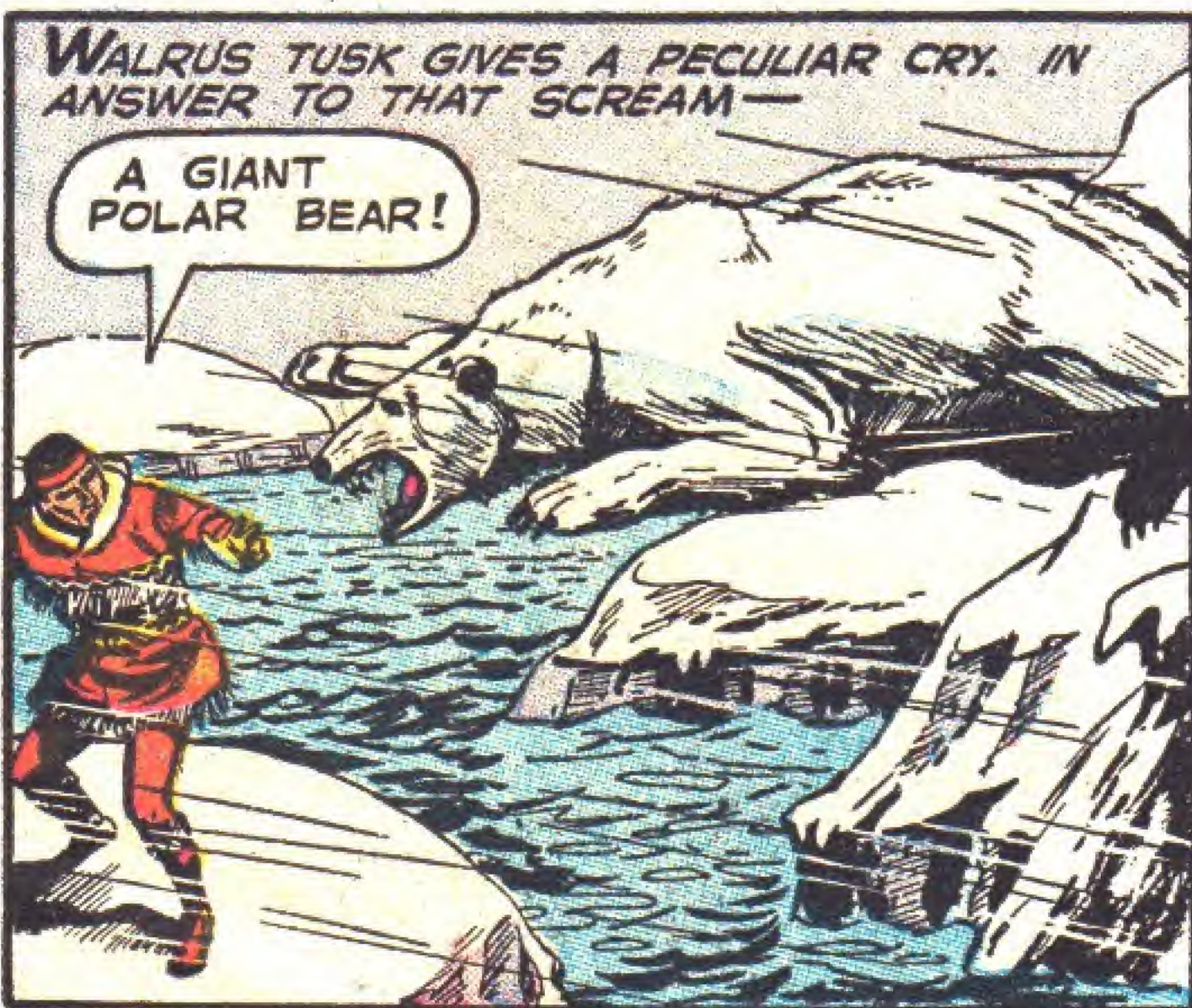




HA! HA! NOW TRY TO CATCH ME, STRAIGHT ARROW. HA! HA!



I WILL CATCH YOU— ON THESE ICE FLOES!



WALRUS TUSK GIVES A PECULIAR CRY. IN ANSWER TO THAT SCREAM—

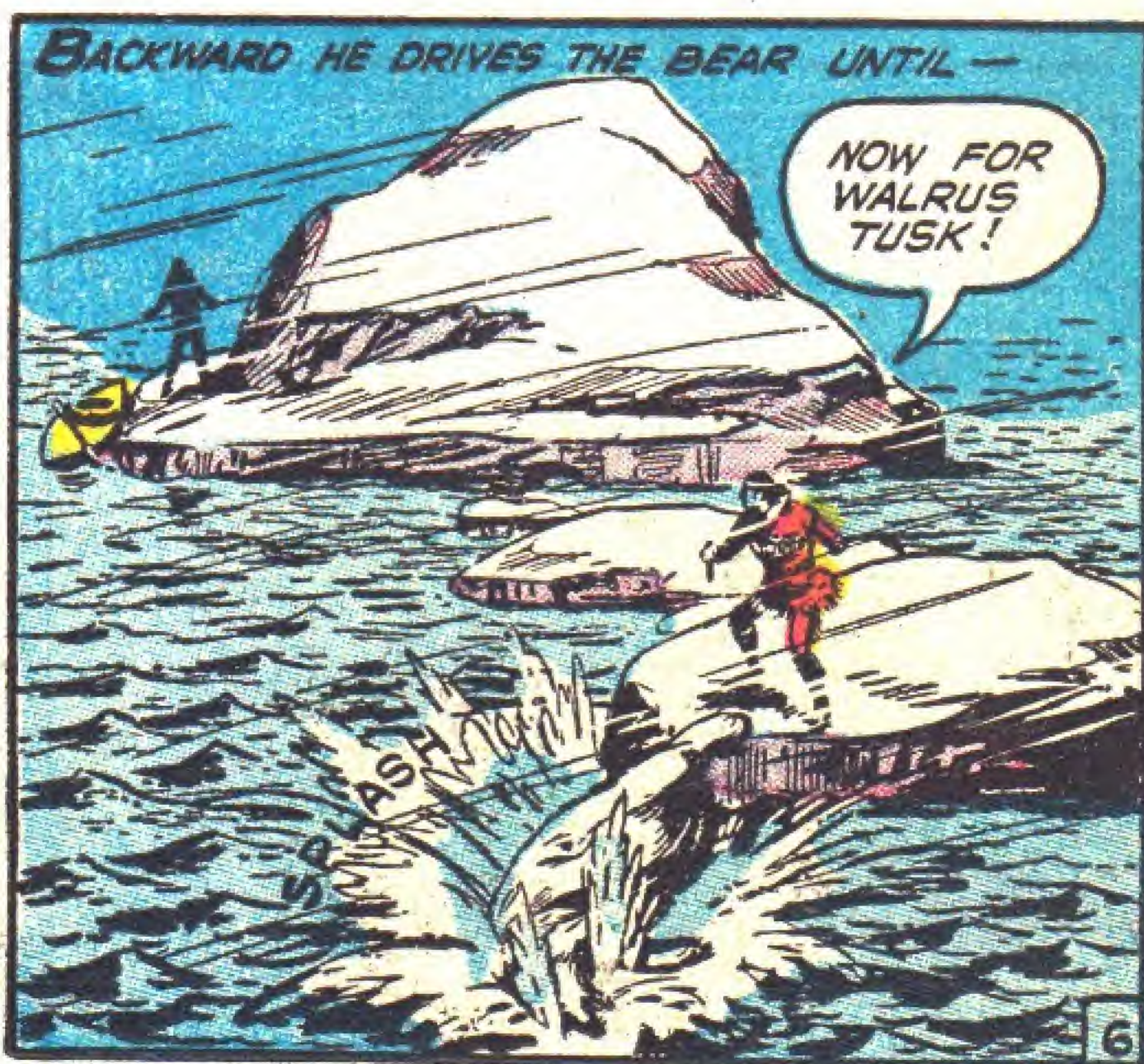
A GIANT POLAR BEAR!



MY ONLY WEAPON IS MY HUNTING KNIFE! BUT THAT'S NOT MUCH USE AGAINST SUCH A MONSTER!

HURLING IN, THE GREAT COMANCHE WAR CHIEF JABS SWIFTLY—THEN WRITHES AWAY, JUST EVADING THE CLUTCH OF THOSE MIGHTY ARMS!

IF HE EVER GRIPS ME IN THAT BEAR-HUG, HE'LL FINISH ME!



BACKWARD HE DRIVES THE BEAR UNTIL—

NOW FOR WALRUS TUSK!



THE END



IDENTIFY EVEN THE STRANGEST STAMPS—at a glance!

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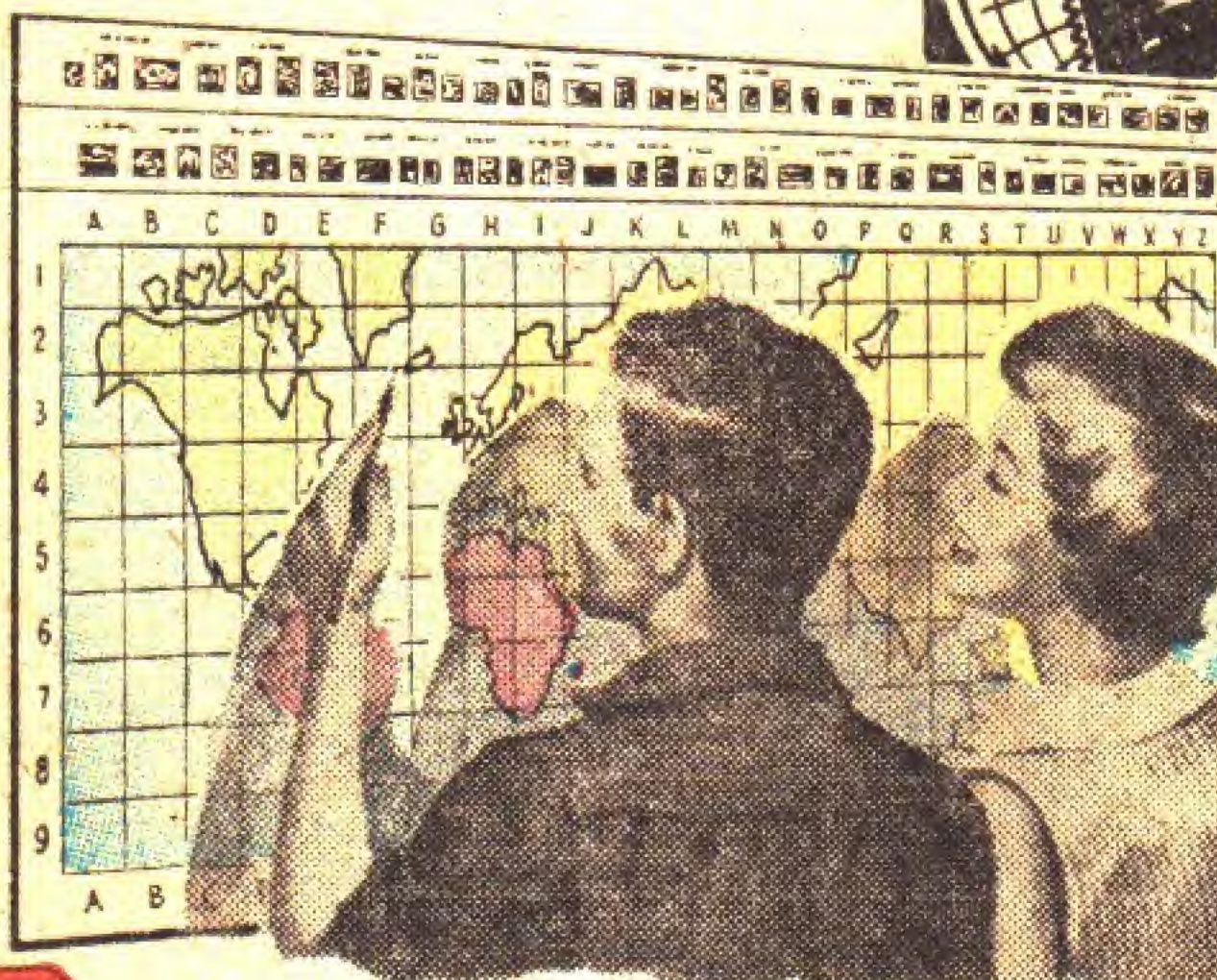
3 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES

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DJIBOUTI
Depicts one of the most famous Mosques of the Near East.

STRAIGHT ARROW

A DOZEN TESTS! RIDING! SHOOTING! WRESTLING! RUNNING! AND EVEN IF **STRAIGHT ARROW** CAN PASS THEM ALL — CAN HE SOLVE THE TWO SEEMINGLY UNANSWERABLE RIDDLES THAT OUTLAW KING **BLACK BART HERON** HAS DREAMED UP? IF HE DOES, **BLACK BART** BECOMES HIS PRISONER. IF HE FAILS, **BLACK BART** WINS A PARDON FOR HIS TERRIBLE CRIMES! WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN **STRAIGHT ARROW** MATCHES MUSCLES AND WIT AGAINST THIS KING ON —

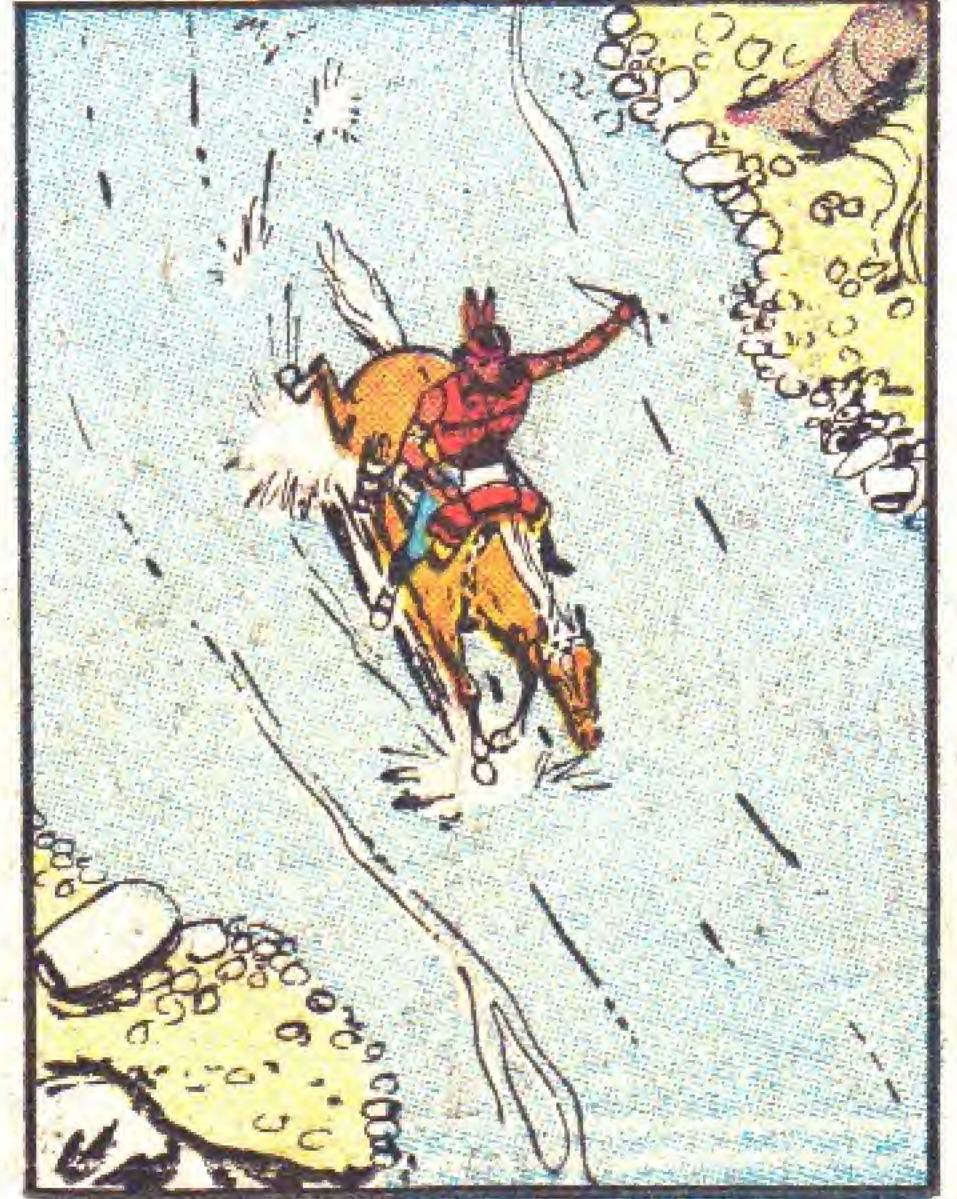
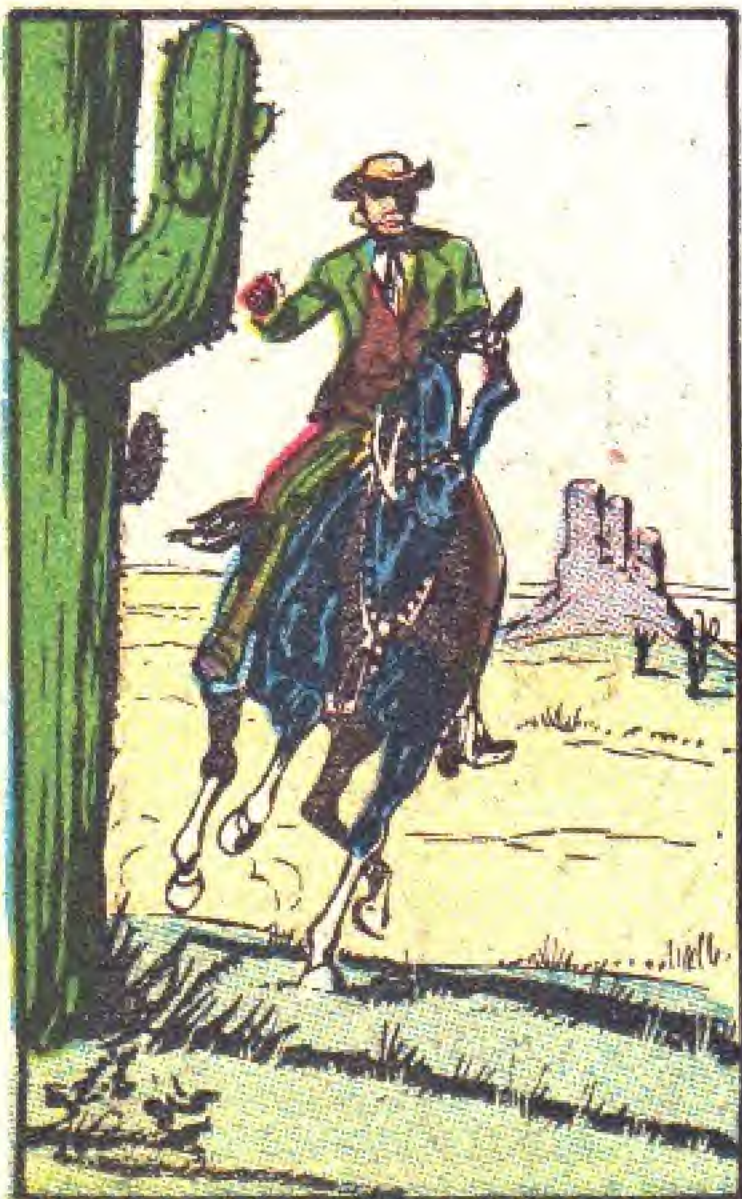
"A DAY FOR STRAIGHT ARROW"

WILD BILL AND BAT HAVE FAILED. IT'S UP TO YOU, **STRAIGHT ARROW**. PASS THIS LAST TEST AND I'M YOUR PRISONER! **WHAT IS INSIDE THE IRON BOX?**

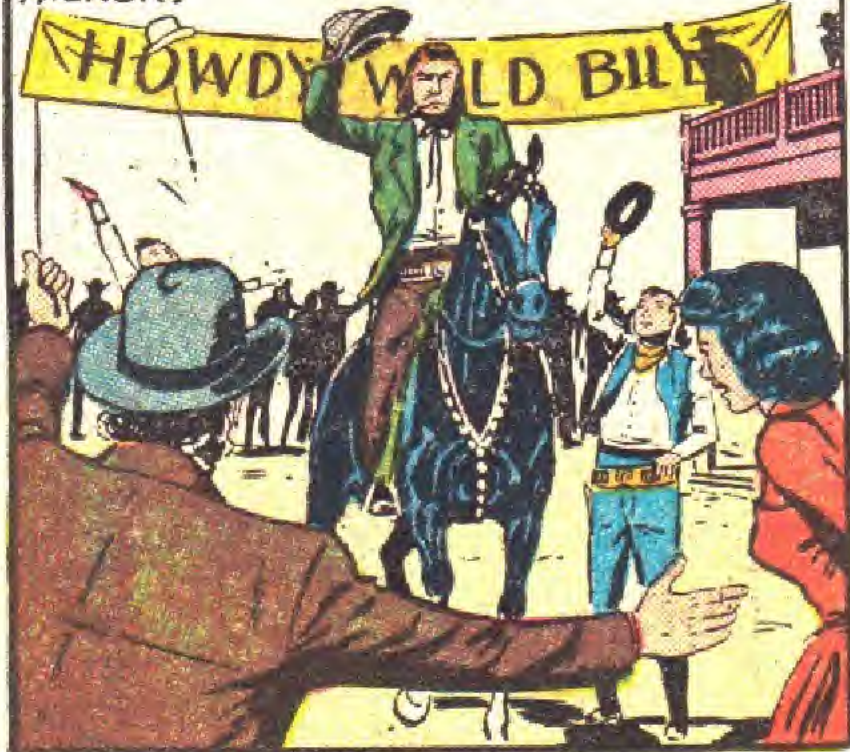
HOW CAN ANYBODY KNOW THAT?



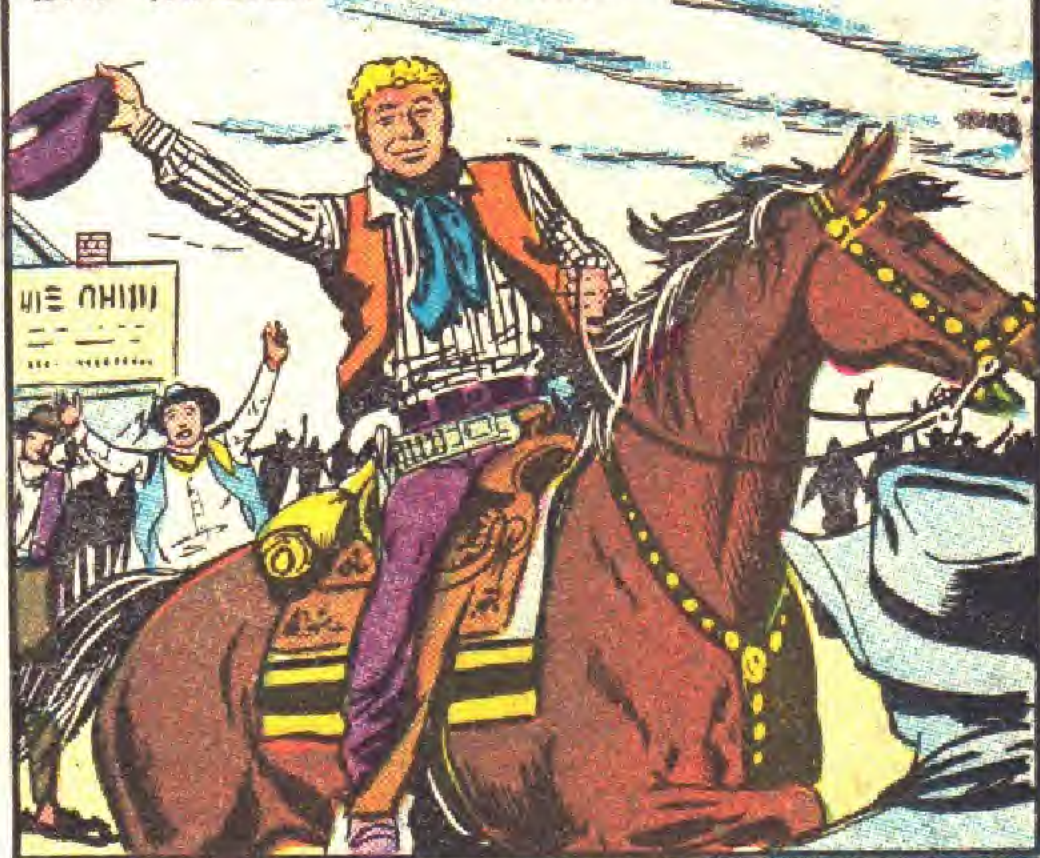
THEY COME FROM ABILENE AND DODGE CITY, THESE TWO FAMED LAWMEN, **WILD BILL HICKOK** AND **BAT MASTERSON**, WHILE FROM THE COMANCHE PLAINS, COMES **STRAIGHT ARROW** — ALL ON A DANGEROUS QUEST FOR A SINGLE MAN! THEY ARE VOLUNTEERS — TO ATTEMPT THEIR SKILL AT TESTS DEVISED BY A MAN WHO HATES THEM ALL!



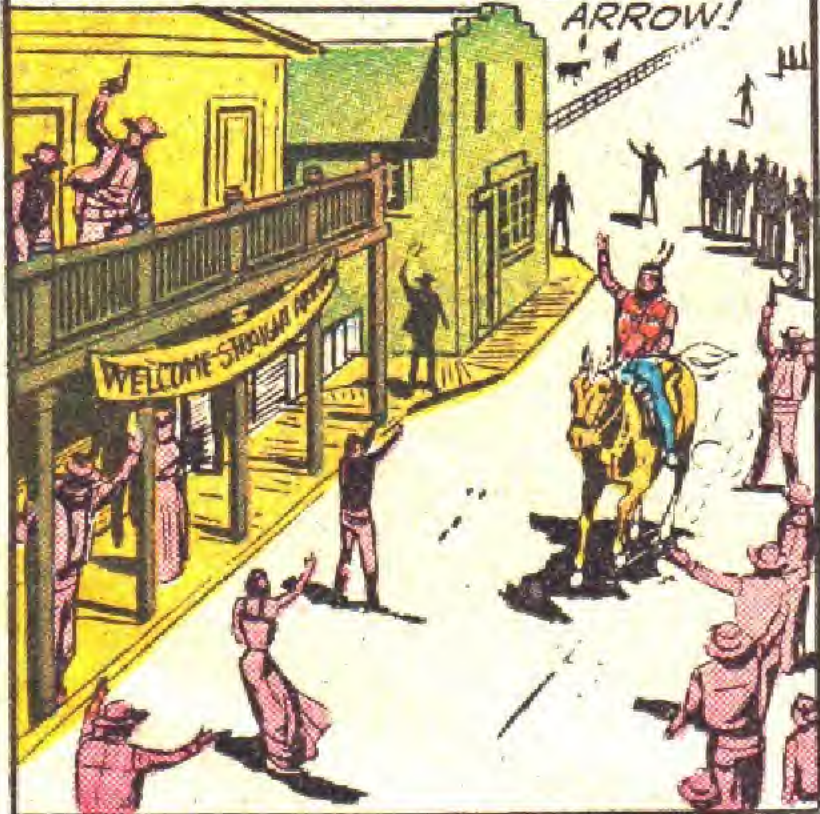
THEIR DESTINATION IS HANGKNOT, AN OUTLAW TOWN. BUT WHAT IS THIS? BANNERS AND CHEERING CROWDS GREET FEDERAL MARSHAL WILD BILL HICKOK!



THE OUTLAWS YELL IN GLEE AS BAT MASTERSON APPEARS—



HOARSE THROATS AND TOSSING HATS HERALD THE ARRIVAL OF STRAIGHT ARROW!



IN AN OUTLAW CABARET, THEY MEET **BLACK BART HERON**, THEIR HOST AND CHALLENGER!



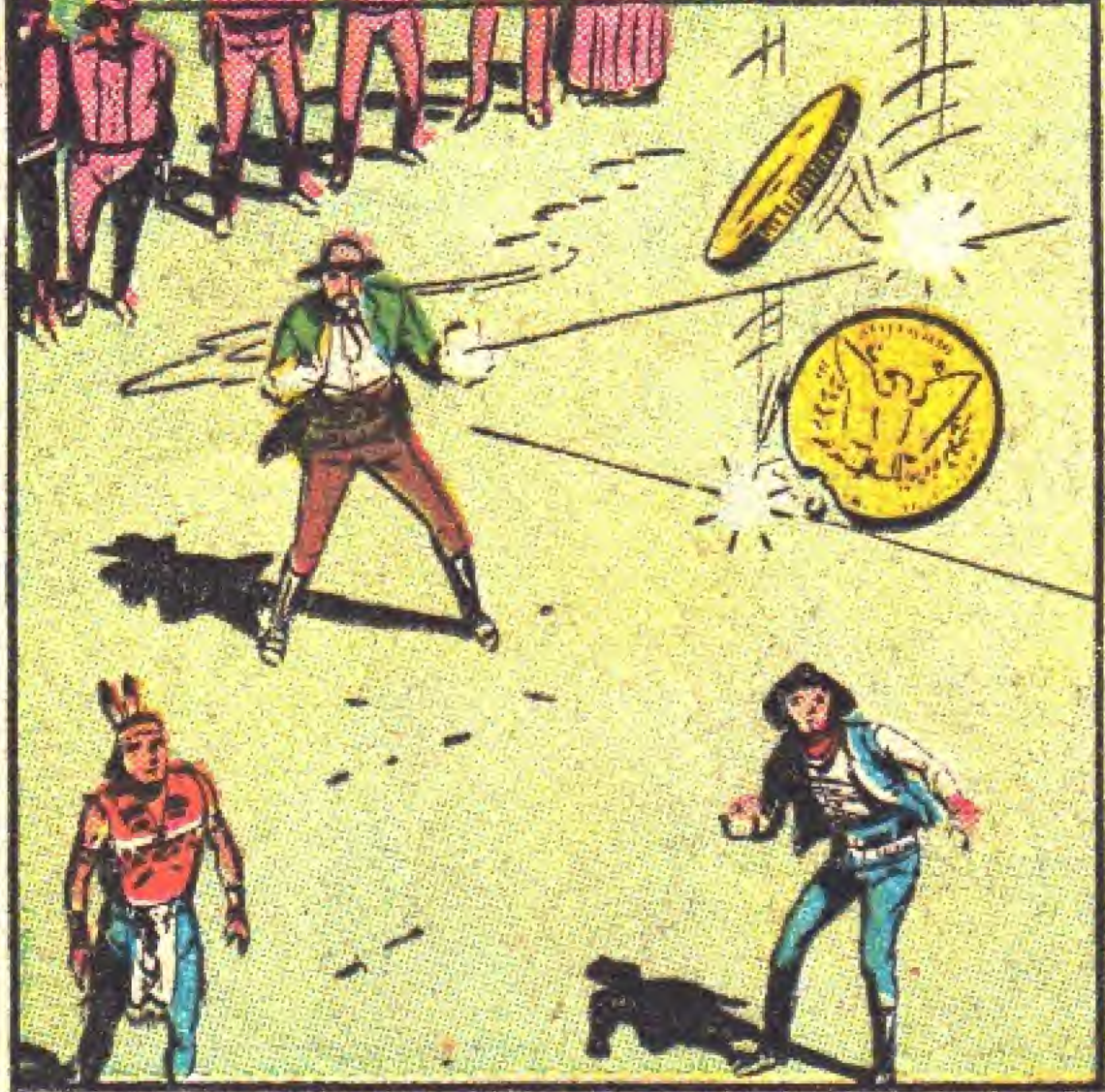
WE CAME BECAUSE TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR WALLACE ASKED US. HE SAID YOU PROMISED TO SURRENDER PEACEABLY, SO THAT NO INNOCENT PERSON WOULD BE HURT BY GUN-PLAY, IF WE MET ALL YOUR TESTS AND PASSED ALL REQUIREMENTS! IF WE **FAIL** THEN YOU GET A PARDON FOR ALL YOUR CRIMES!



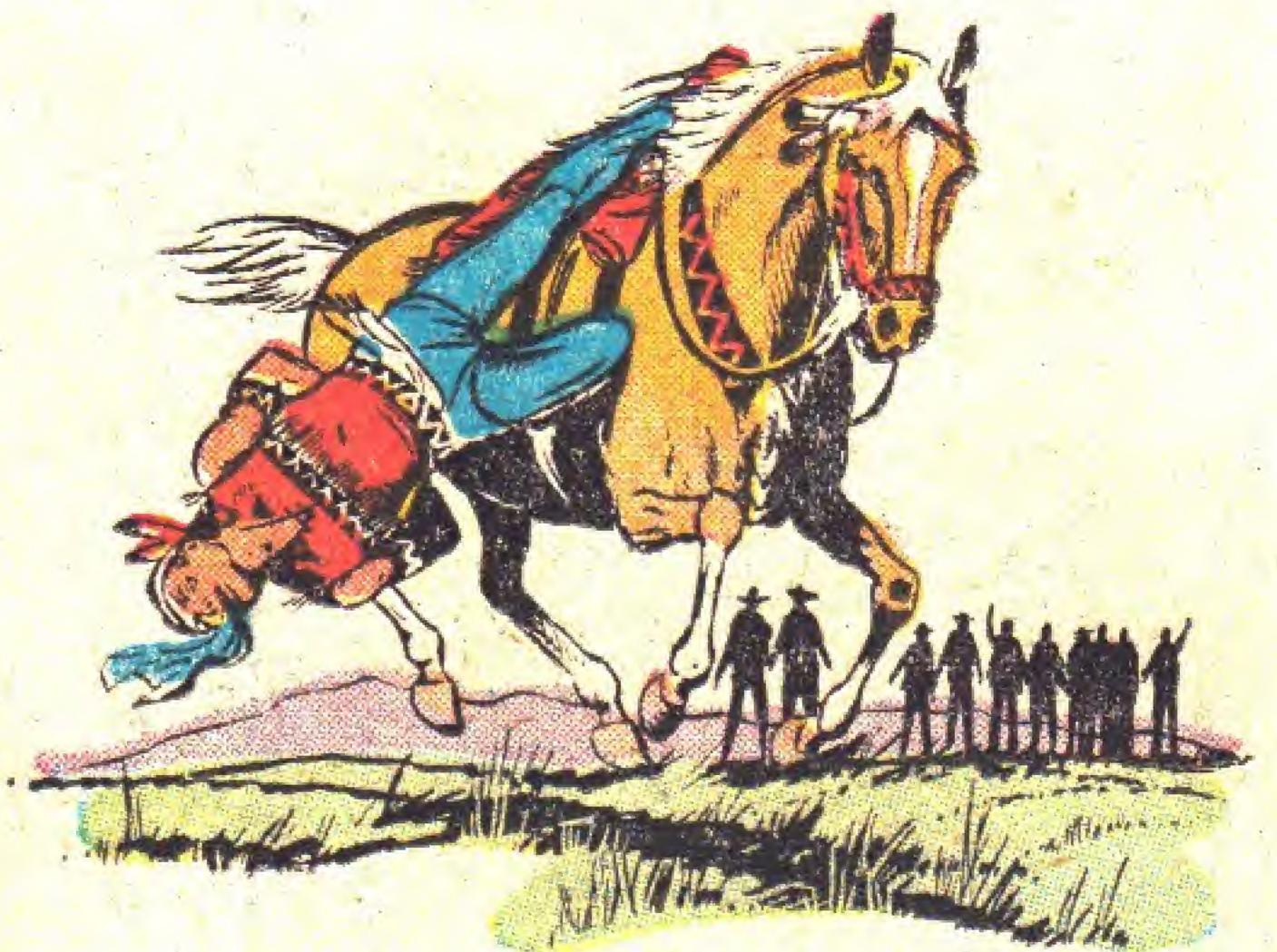
EXACTLY! BUT TONIGHT WE EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY AT THE BIG PARTY. TOMORROW YOU TAKE MY TESTS!



NEXT DAY, ON THE FLATS OUTSIDE HANGKNOT, WILD BILL DISPLAYS HIS SHOOTING PROWESS.



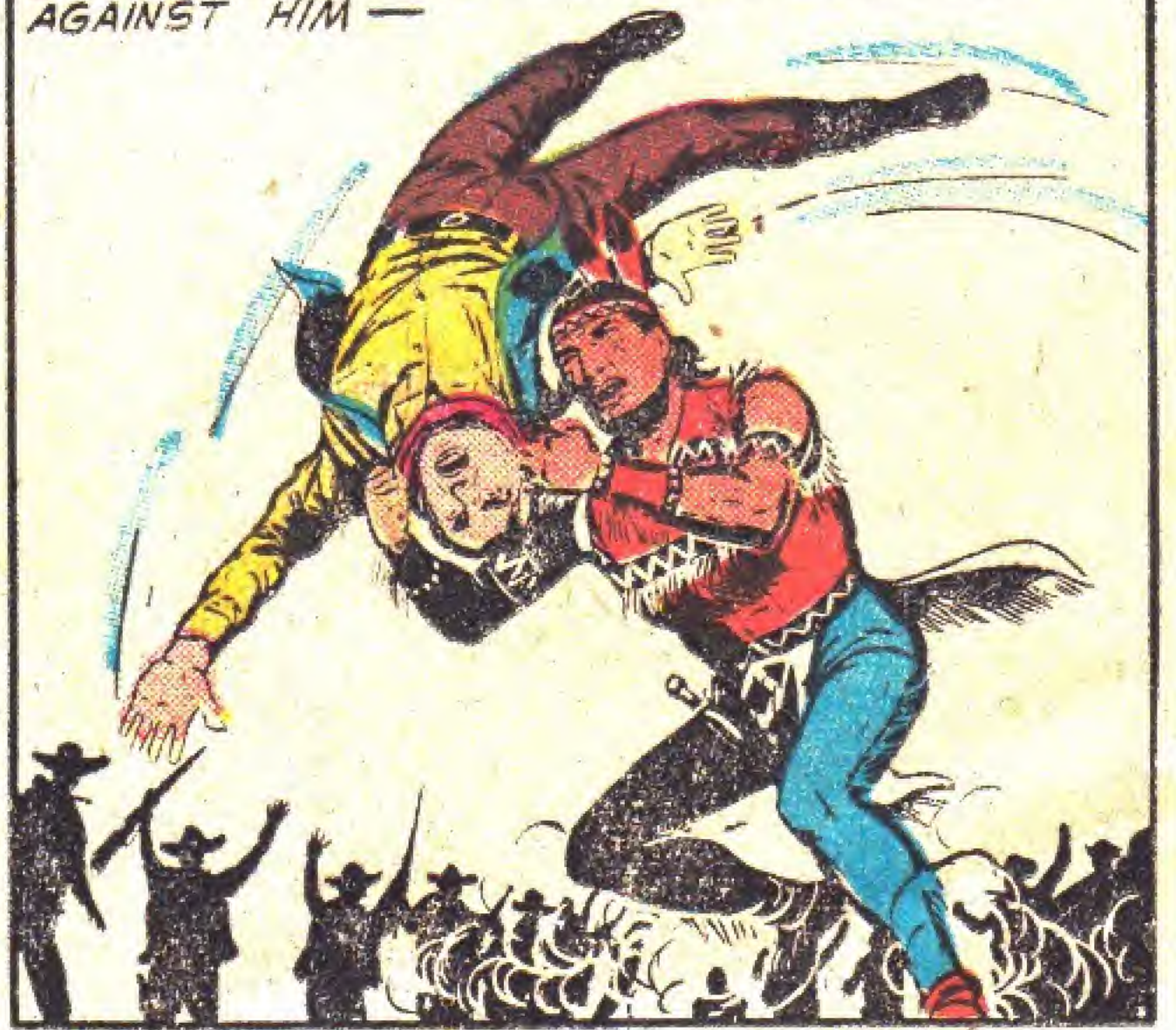
STRAIGHT ARROW RIDES AS ONLY A COMANCHE CAN!



BAT MASTERSON GIVES A DEMONSTRATION OF ROUGH AND TUMBLE FIGHT TECHNIQUE AGAINST AN OUTLAW GIANT—



EACH MAN BESTS THE TOUGHEST MEN SENT AGAINST HIM—



OR OUTSPEEDS THE FASTEST AMONG THEIR RANK!



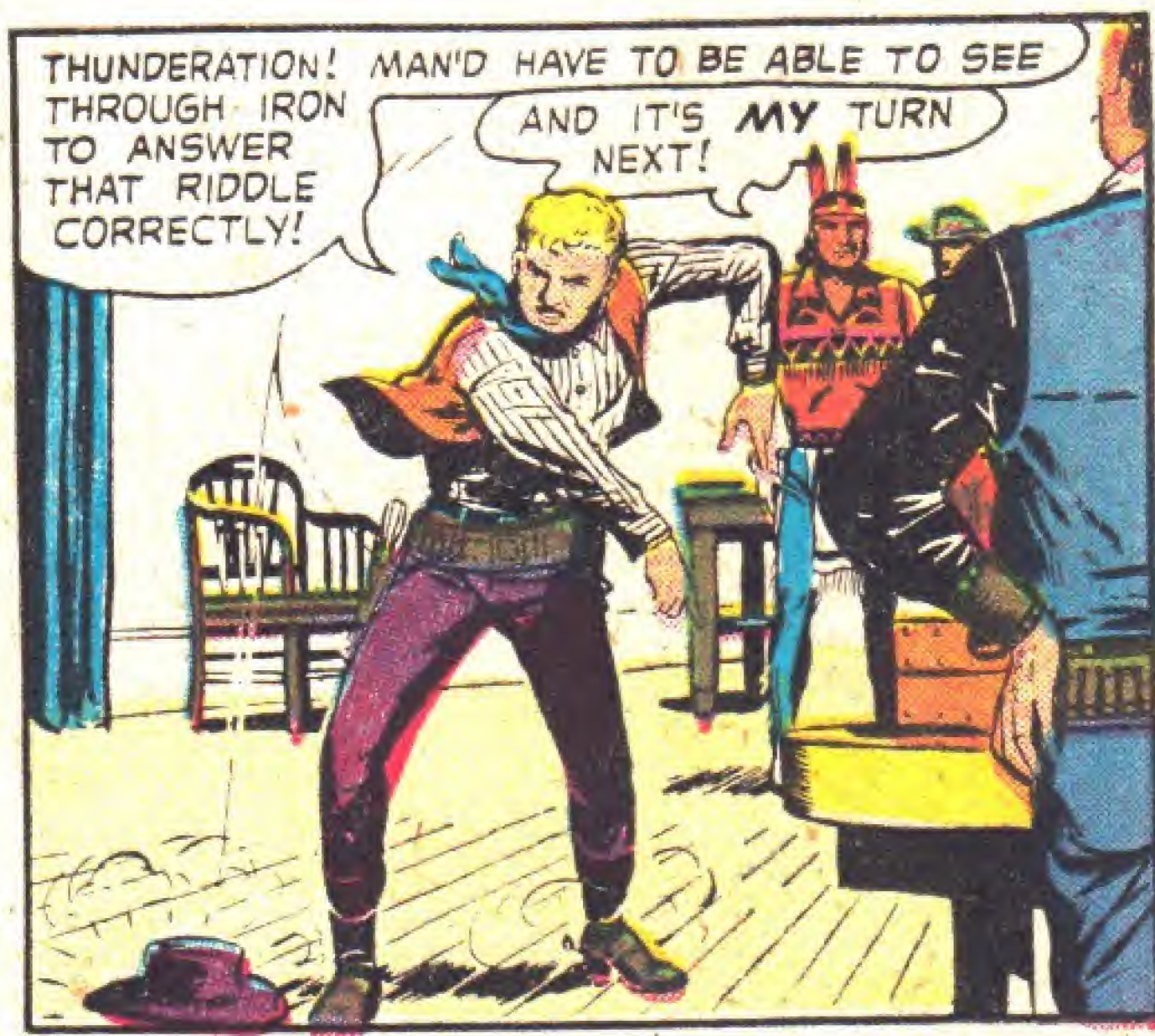
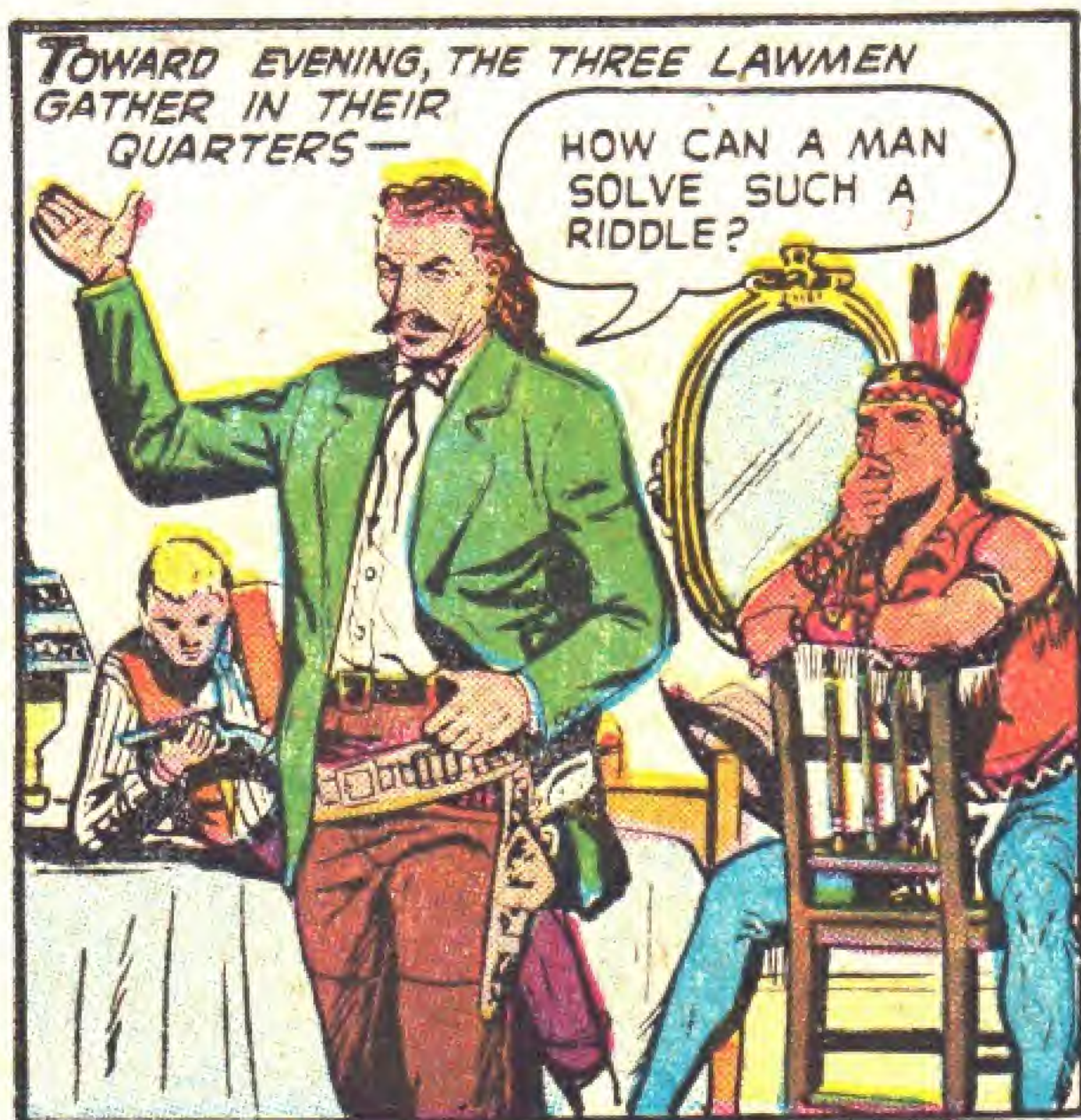
TARNATION! I AINT NEVER SEEN A MAN RUN *THAT* FAST BEFORE!

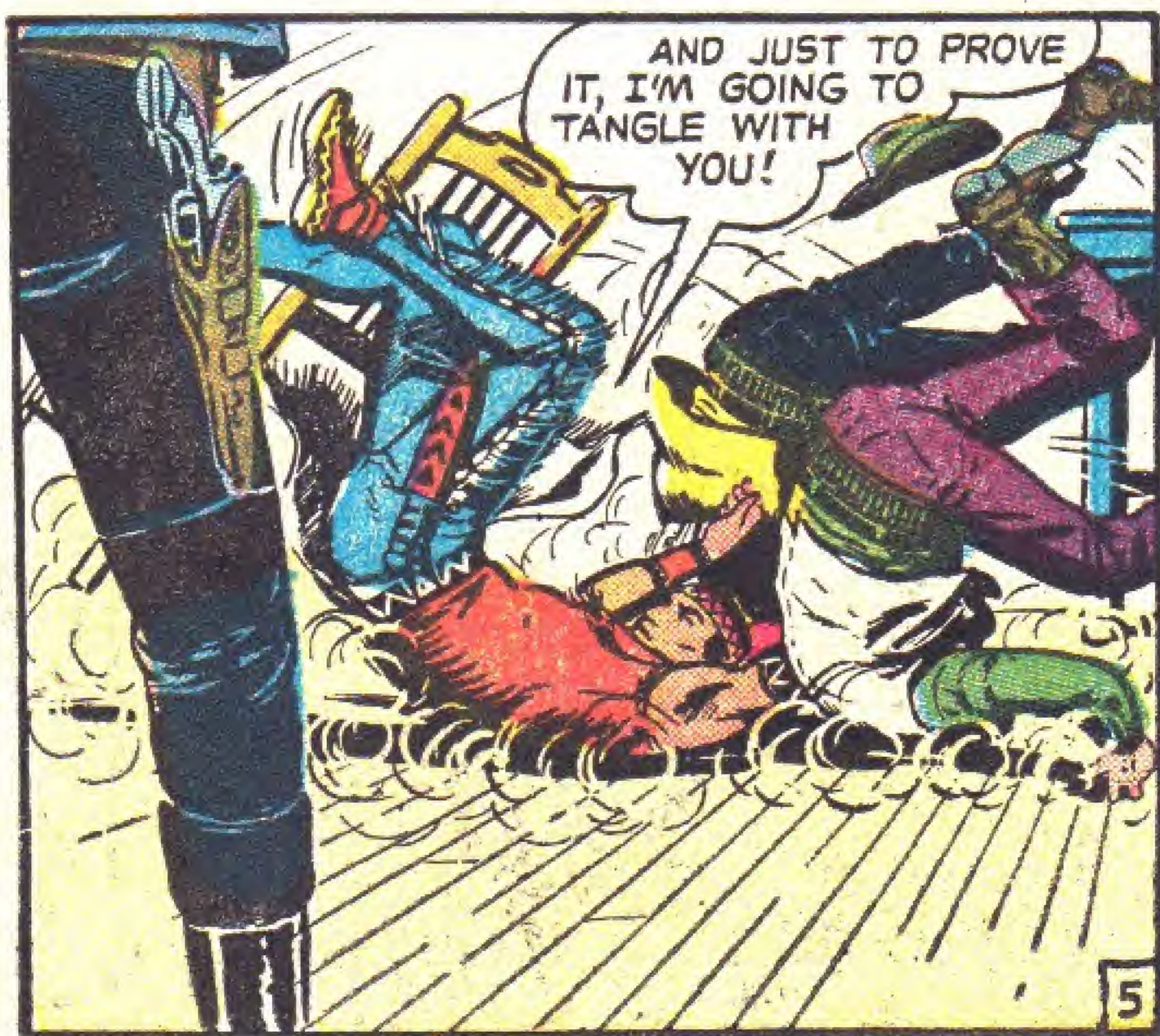
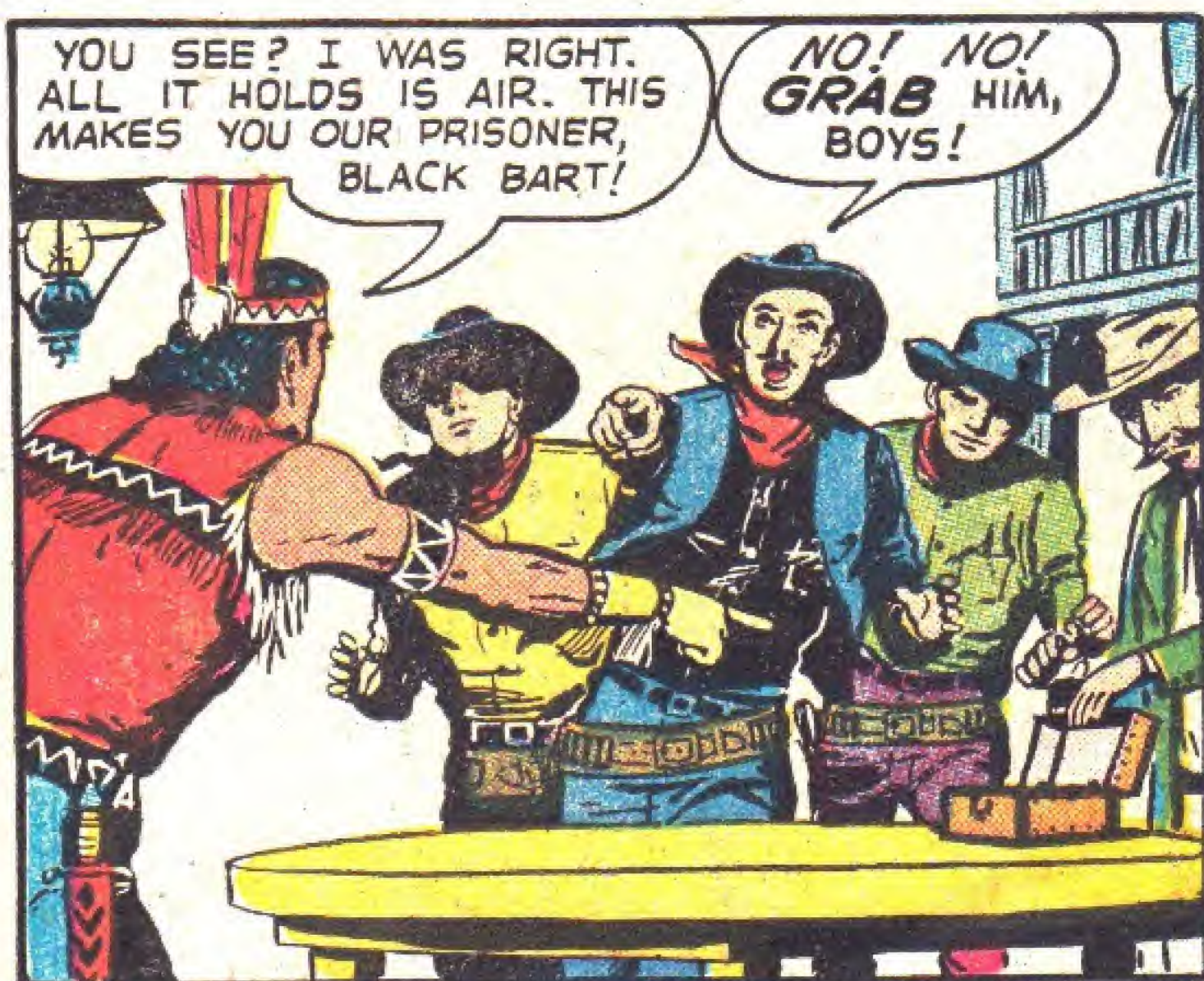
BUT WILD BILL FAILS THE NEXT TO LAST TEST!

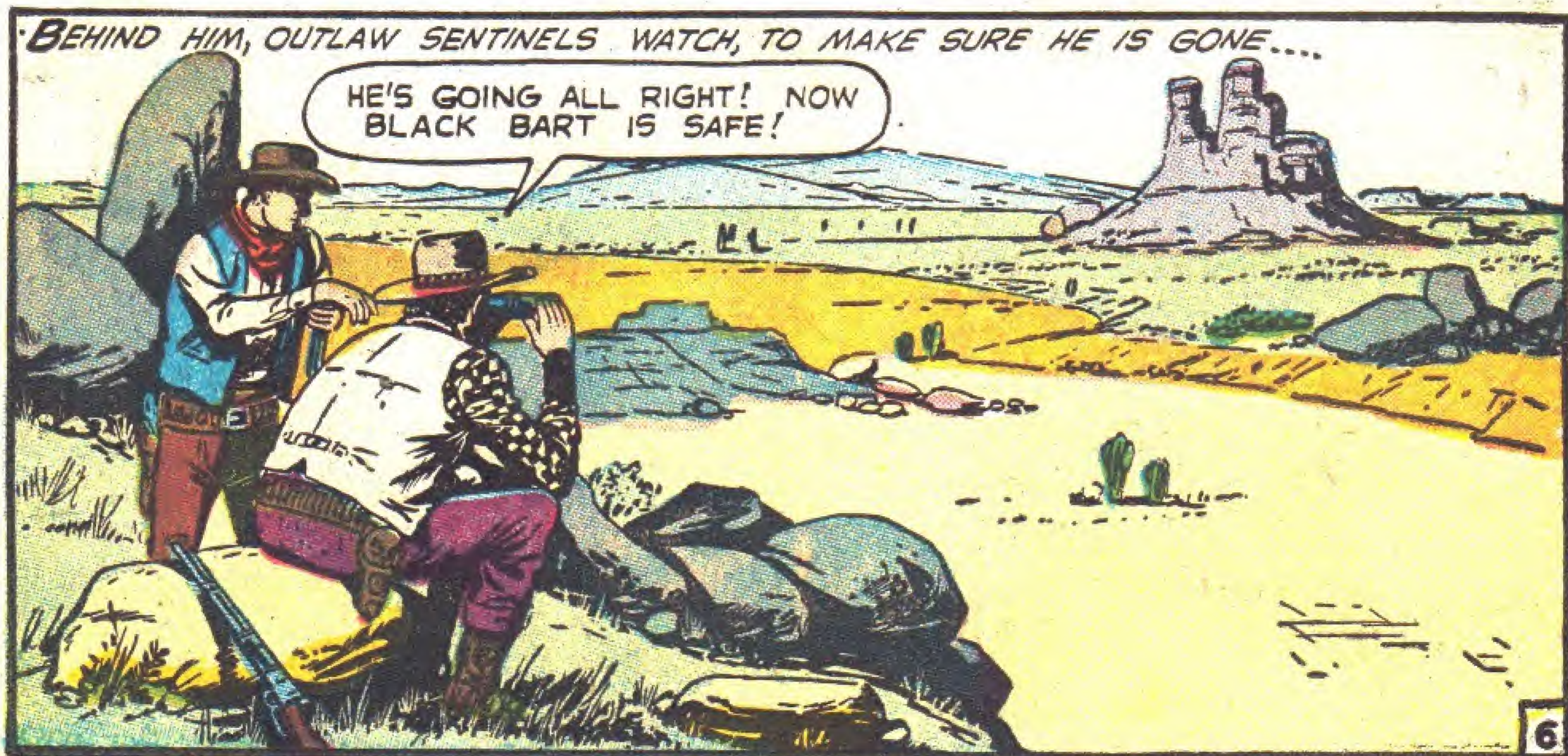
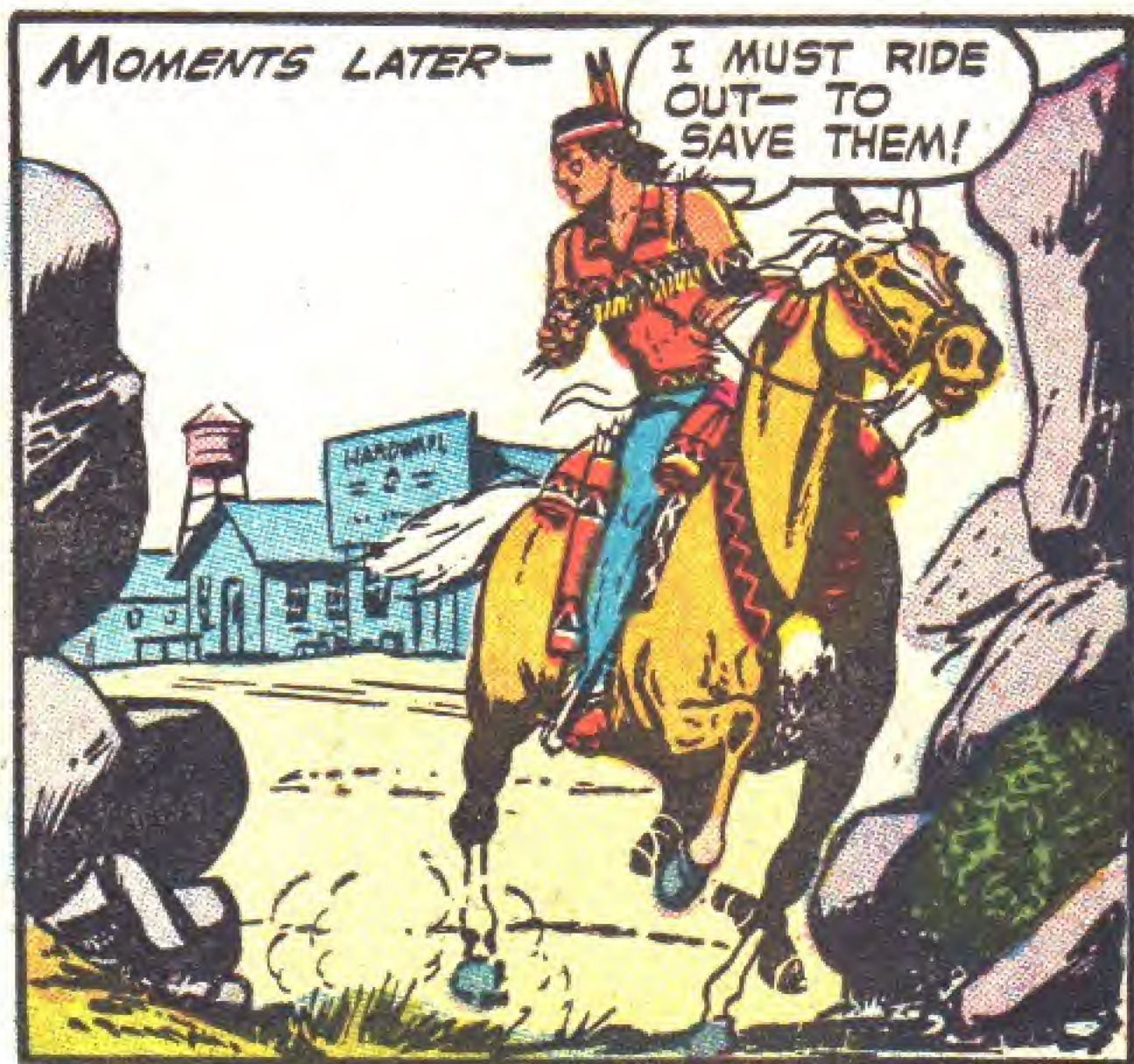
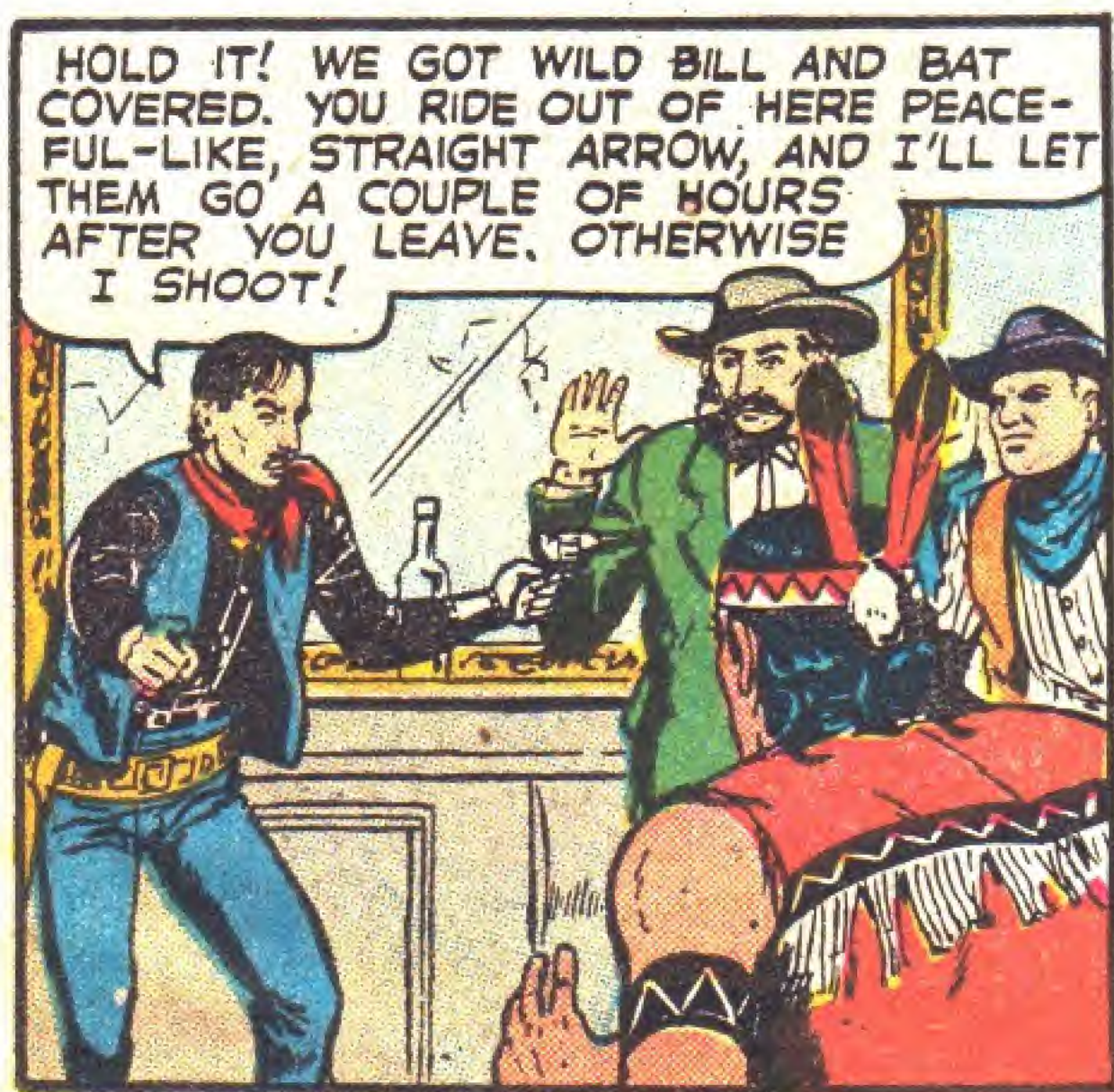
PUT WATER IN THIS CUP—BUT THE WATER MUST NOT COME FROM THE SKY OR FROM THE GROUND!

HUH? HOW CAN ANYBODY DO THAT?



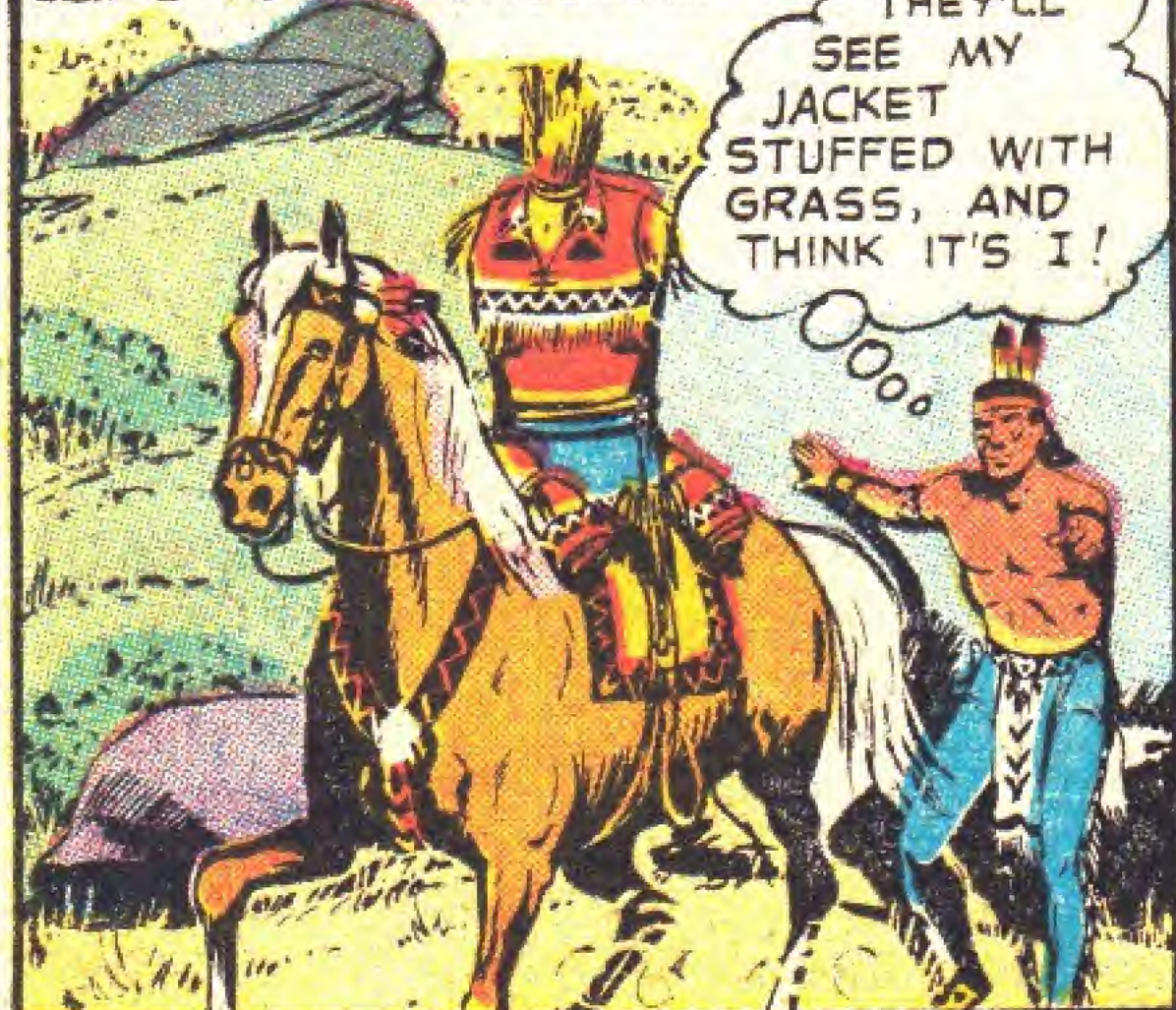






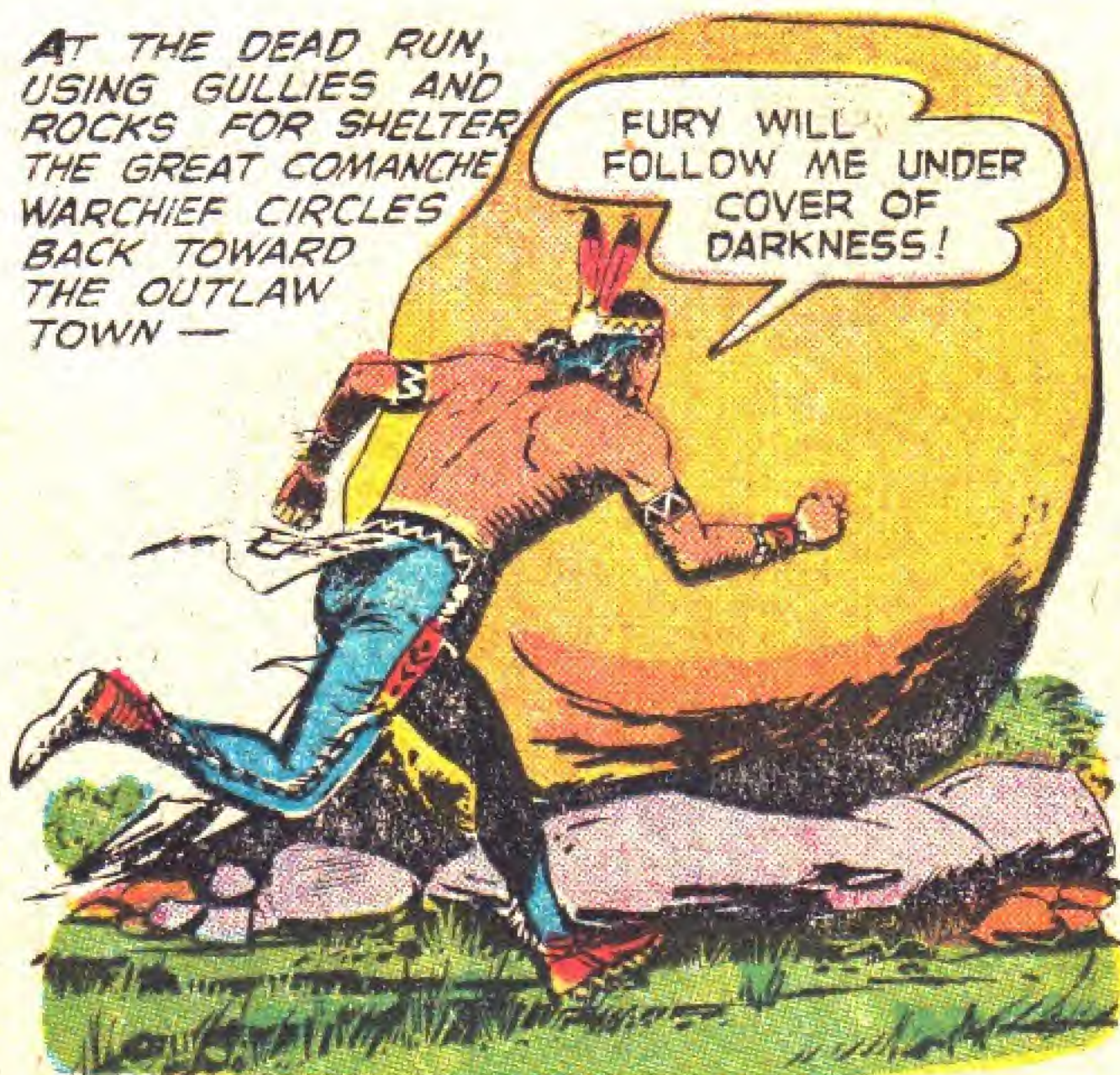
OUT OF SIGHT OF MEN WITH FIELD GLASSES, AND SHELTERED BY A ROCKY BOULDER, STRAIGHT ARROW SLIPS TO THE GROUND...

THEY'LL SEE MY JACKET STUFFED WITH GRASS, AND THINK IT'S I!

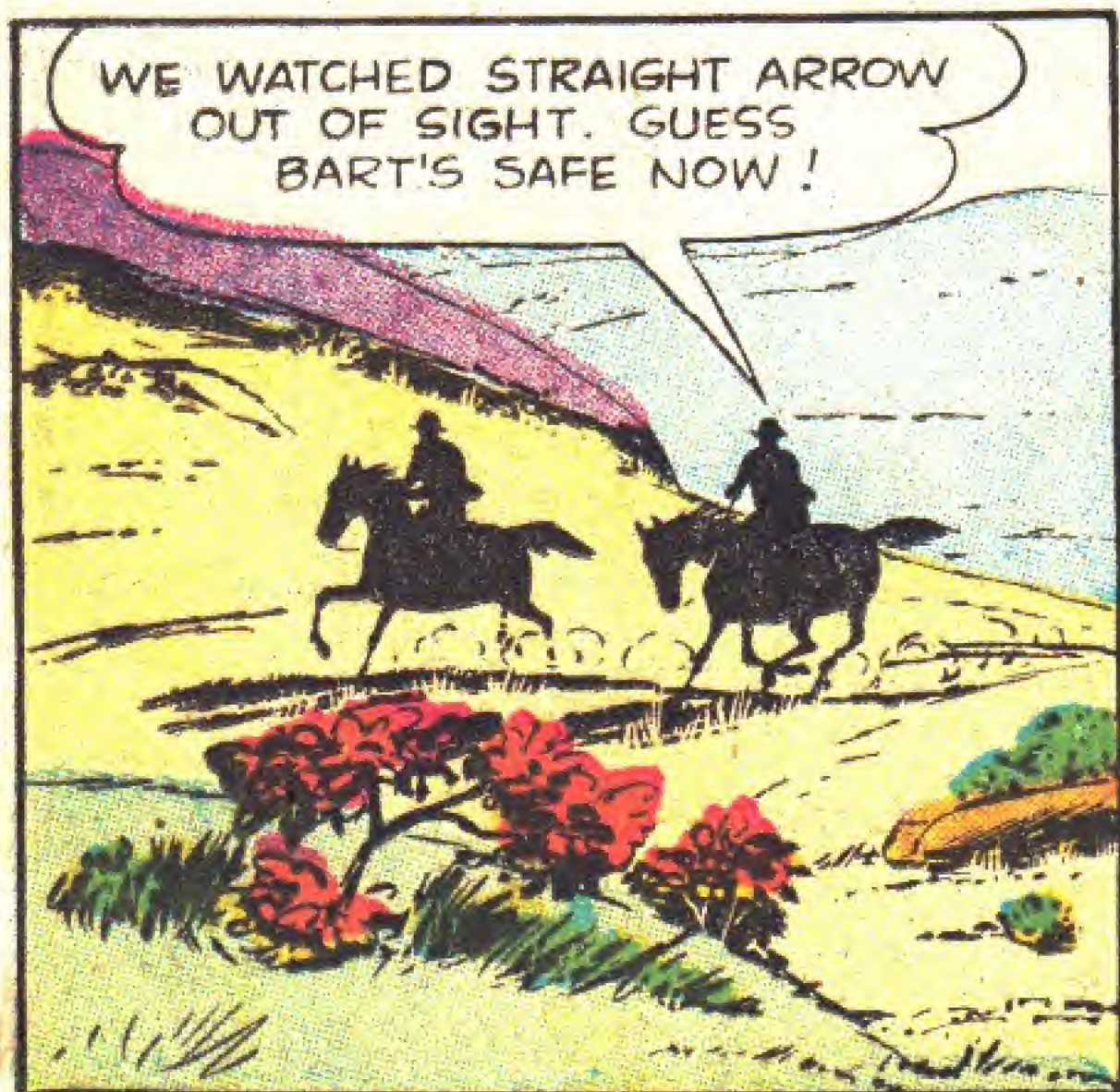


AT THE DEAD RUN, USING GULLIES AND ROCKS FOR SHELTER, THE GREAT COMANCHE WARCHIEF CIRCLES BACK TOWARD THE OUTLAW TOWN —

FURY WILL FOLLOW ME UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS!



WE WATCHED STRAIGHT ARROW OUT OF SIGHT. GUESS BART'S SAFE NOW!



WHEN BLACK BART ENTERS HIS ROOM THAT NIGHT —

YOU BROKE YOUR GIVEN WORD, BLACK BART — AND THAT MEANS YOU'RE FAIR GAME NOW!

NO!



FURY AND A SADDLED HORSE ARE WAITING BELOW. I'M TAKING YOU TO JAIL, HERON! I THINK YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO SHOUT FOR HELP! IF YOU DO — YOU GO FIRST!



AND SO STRAIGHT ARROW CAME OUT OF HANGKNOT WITH HIS PRISONER, AND WITH HIM RODE WILD BILL HICKOK AND BAT MASTERSON....



THE
END



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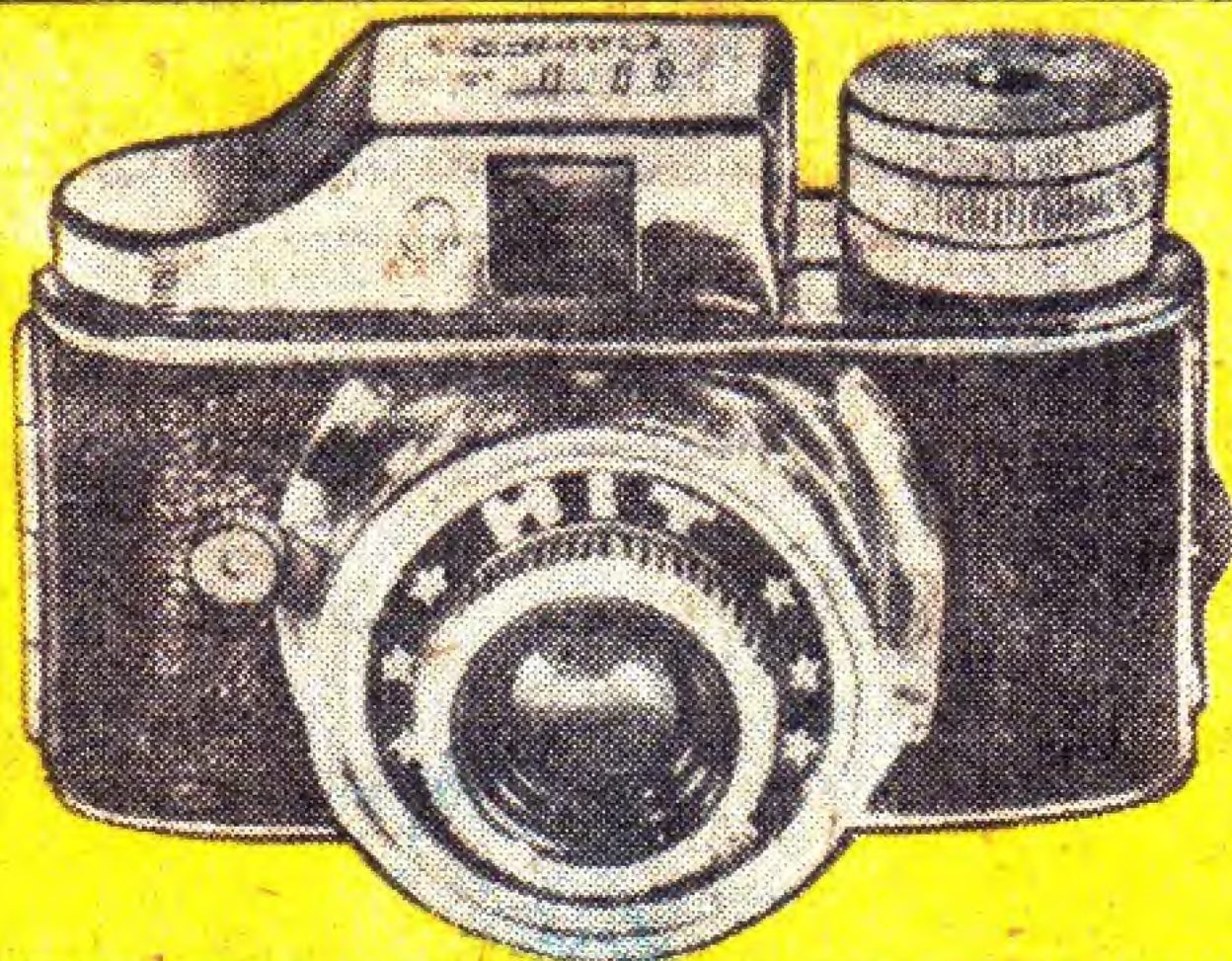
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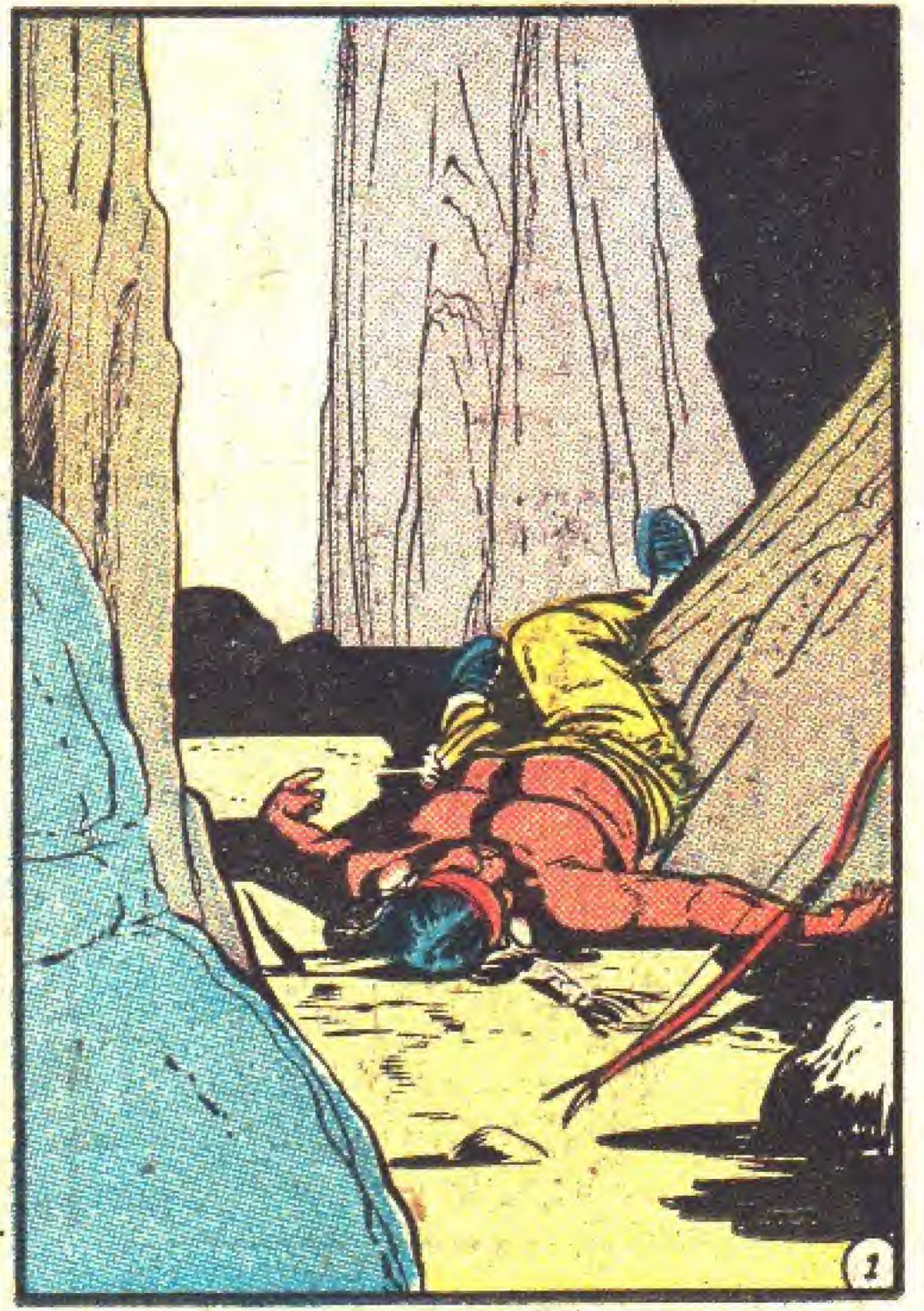
RED HAWK

RED HAWK WILL MAKE
ONE MORE VICTIM OF THE
CURSE OF BUFFALO PASS!

FOR UNCOUNTED DECADES, THE CHEYENNES HAVE USED A NARROW PATHWAY THROUGH THE BUFFALO HILLS TO CROSS OVER FROM THE GREAT PLAINS UP INTO THEIR MOUNTAIN TRAPPING GROUNDS...NOW DOOM STRIKES THEIR HUNTERS. MEN FALL BEFORE AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT—AND NO ONE KNOWS HOW OR WHY OR WHEN!...AND WHEN **RED HAWK** DARES FACE THE CURSE OF THE ANCIENT PASS, HE DISCOVERS THAT HE HAS STEPPED INTO A DEADLY—

RENEGADE TRAP!

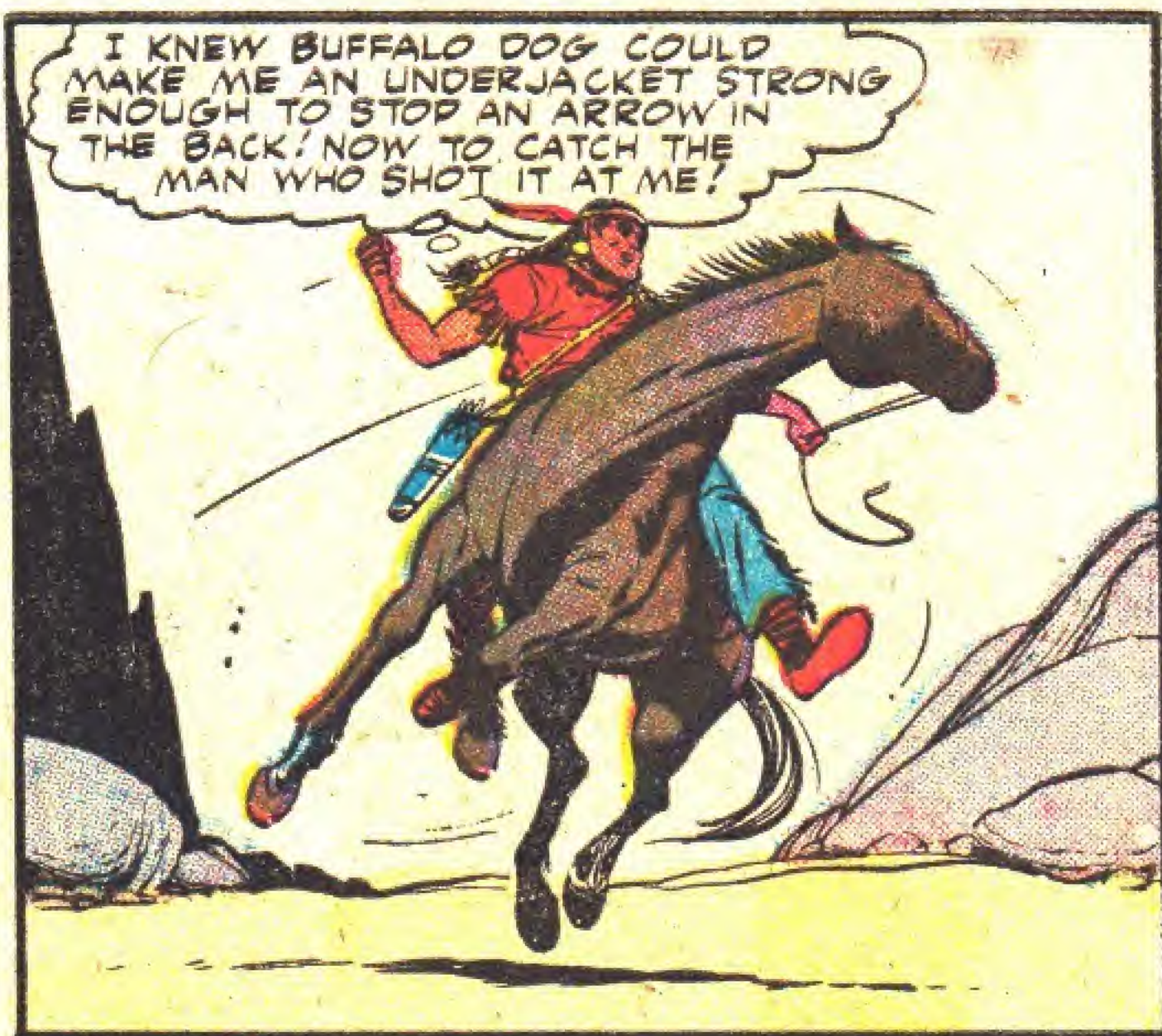
BUFFALO PASS BROODS OVER THE GREAT FLAT PLAINS TO THE SOUTH AND THE HIGH MOUNTAINS TO THE NORTH. IT IS A PATHWAY FOR TRAVELLING BUFFALO HERDS, AND CHEYENNE AND SIOUX TRAPPERS ON THEIR WAY TO THE HUNTING GROUNDS—UNTIL—







HUI—LOOKS LIKE I'VE
FLUSHED THE KILLER
OUT OF COVER!



I KNEW BUFFALO DOG COULD
MAKE ME AN UNDERJACKET STRONG
ENOUGH TO STOP AN ARROW IN
THE BACK! NOW TO CATCH THE
MAN WHO SHOT IT AT ME!



AHEAD OF HIM, A FLEET YOUNG
CHEYENNE RENEGADE NAMED
SLY WOLF TAKES TO HIS HEELS—

THAT TRICKY RED HAWK
FOOLED ME, AS HE'S FOOLED
OTHERS IN THE PAST! MY
MOCCASINS LEFT NO TRACKS
ON THESE ROCKS. MY UN-
MARKED ARROWS LEFT NO
CLUE BEHIND ME. I WAS
SAFE—UNTIL **HE** HAD TO
COME ALONG!



I HAD A NICE THING GOING FOR
ME—STEALING RICH FURS AND GOOD
MEAT FOR MY OWN TEPEE. RED
HAWK'S SPOILED IT ALL... BUT MAYBE
HE **HASN'T**—MAYBE I'VE A TRICK
OR TWO UP MY OWN SLEEVE!



I SAW SOME LIPANS
HUNTING HERE A LITTLE
WHILE AGO. THEY HATE
RED HAWK MORE THAN
ANY OTHER CHEYENNE!
IF I COULD LEAD HIM
INTO THEIR CLUTCHES—
THEY'D GET HIM OFF
MY NECK!



SOMEWHAT
LATER—

A CHEYENNE—
RUNNING FROM
ANOTHER ONE!

THE MAN HE FLEES FROM IS
RED HAWK, OUR OLD ENEMY.
ANY **ENEMY OF RED HAWK**
IS A **FRIEND OF OURS!** LET'S
HELP HIM!



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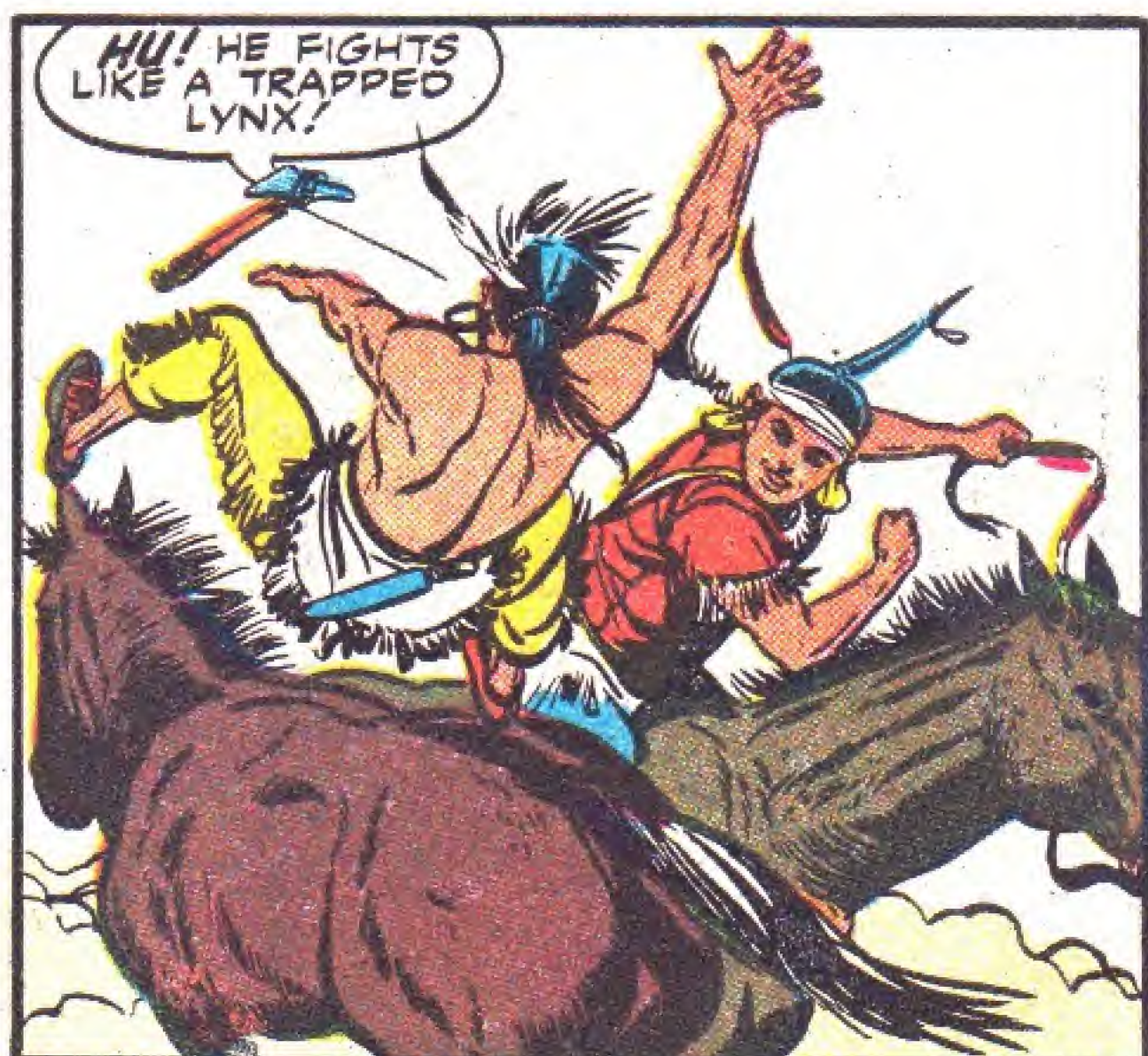
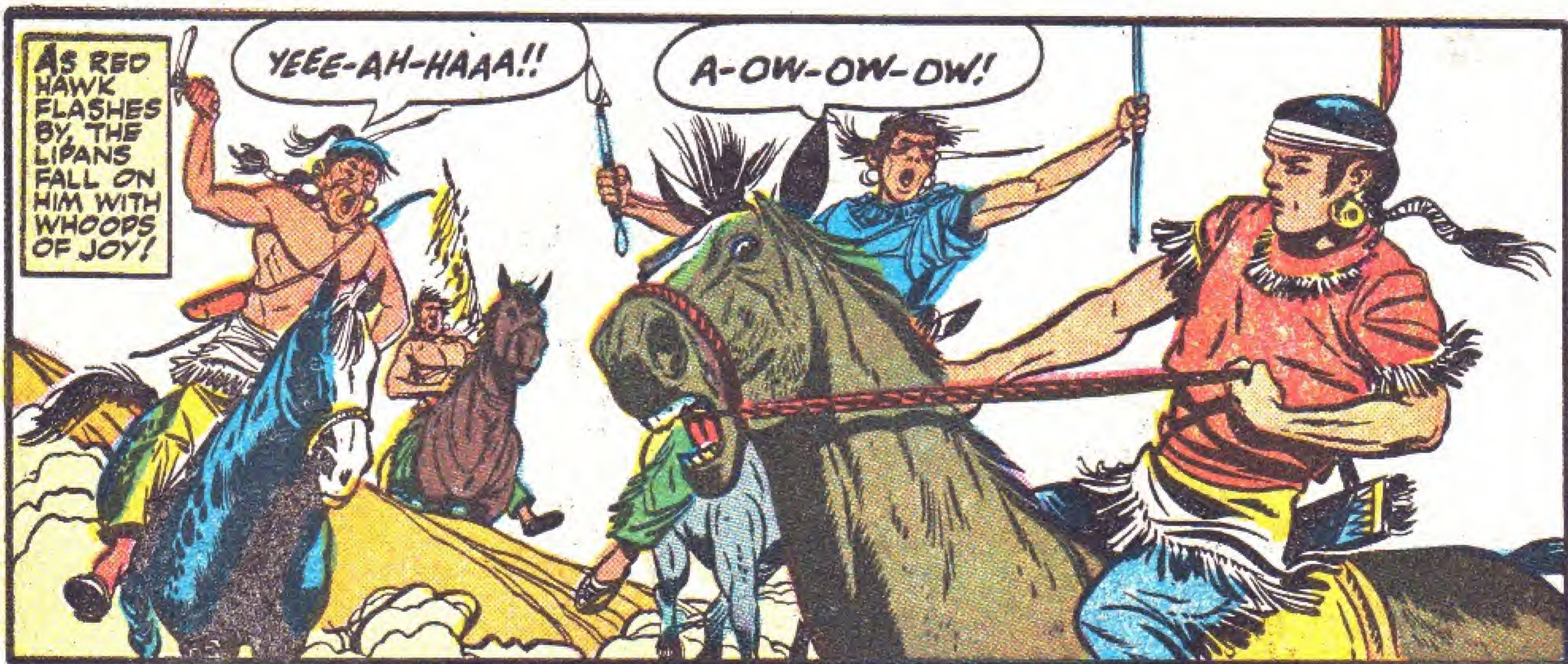
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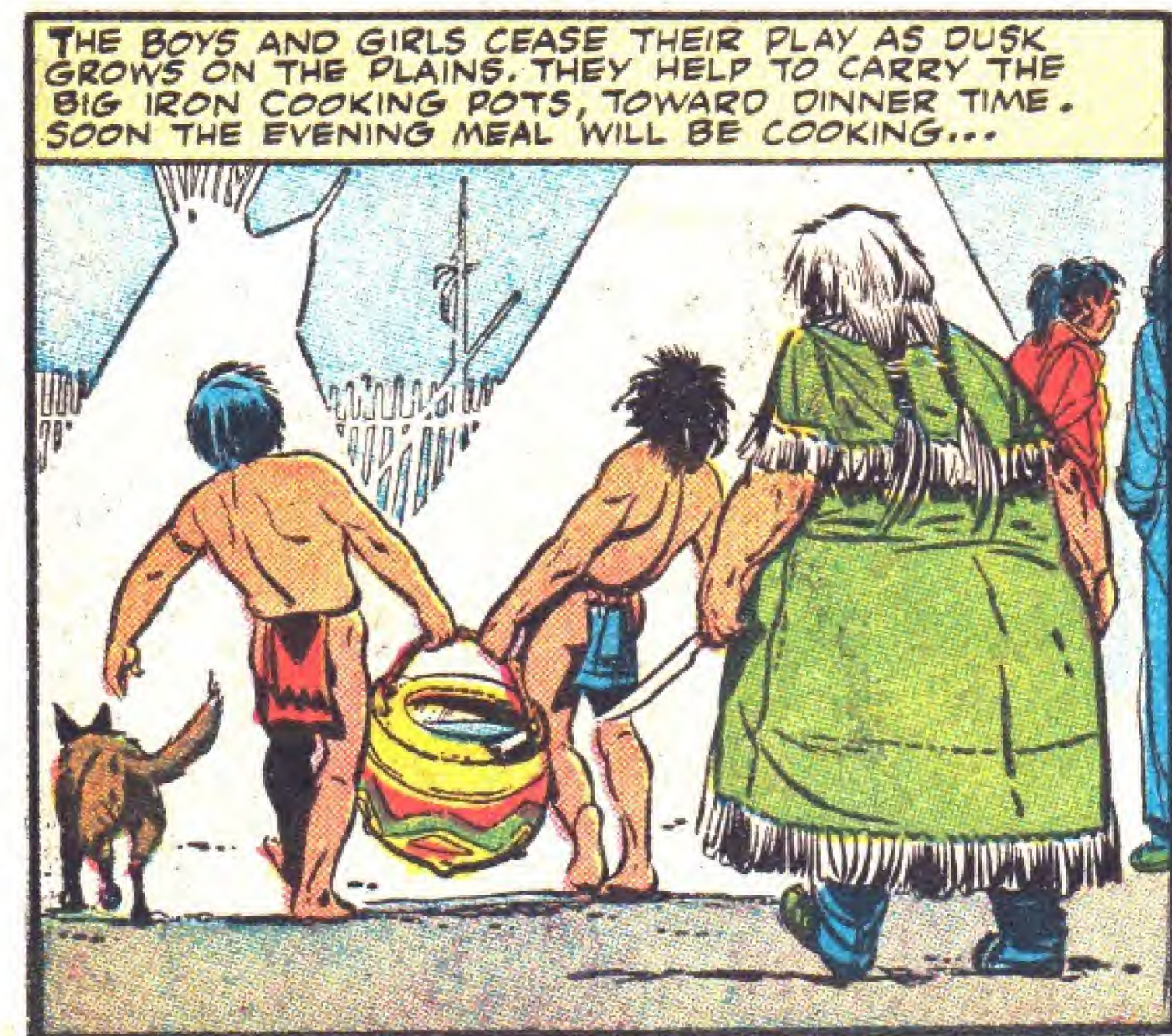
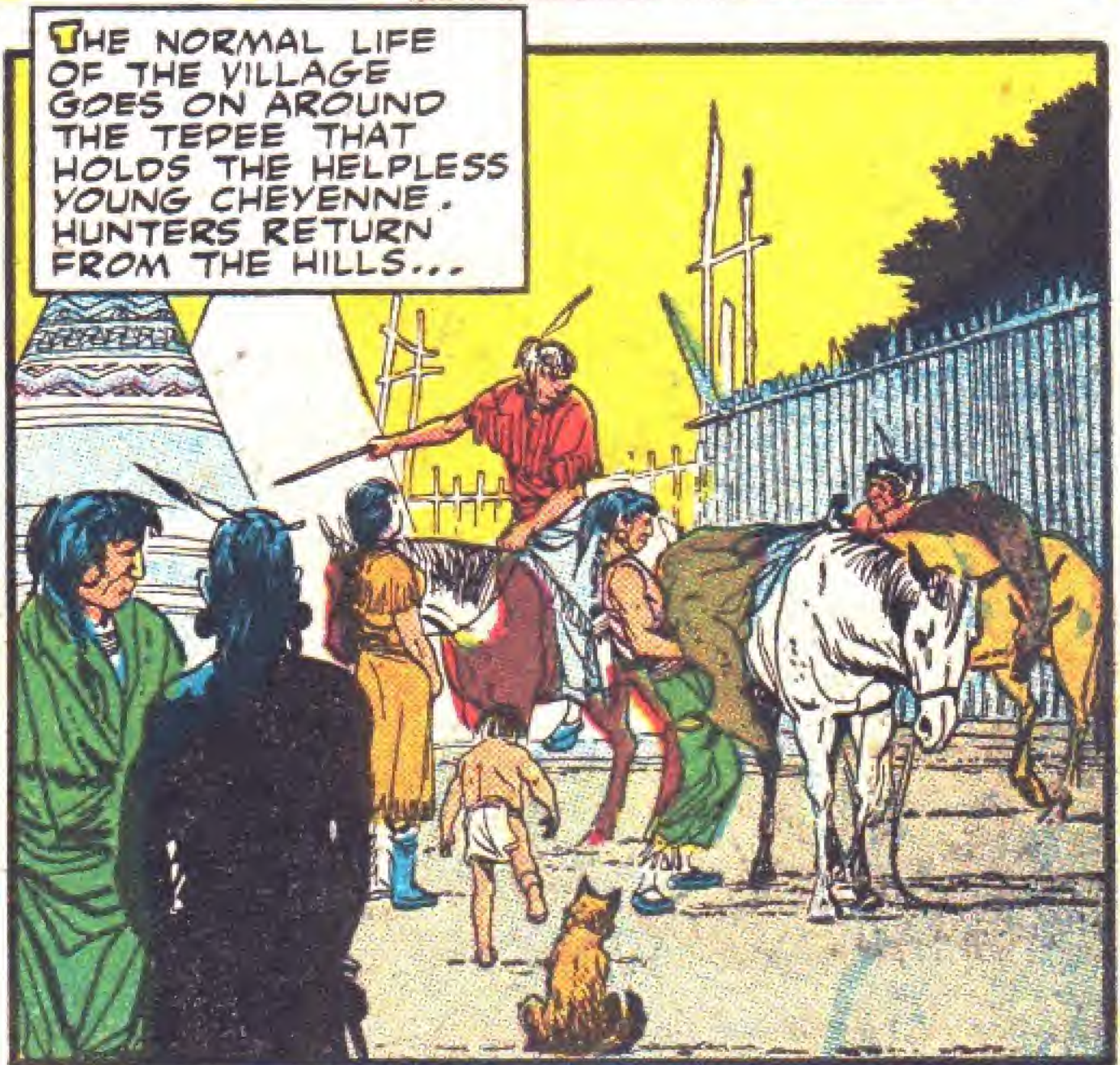
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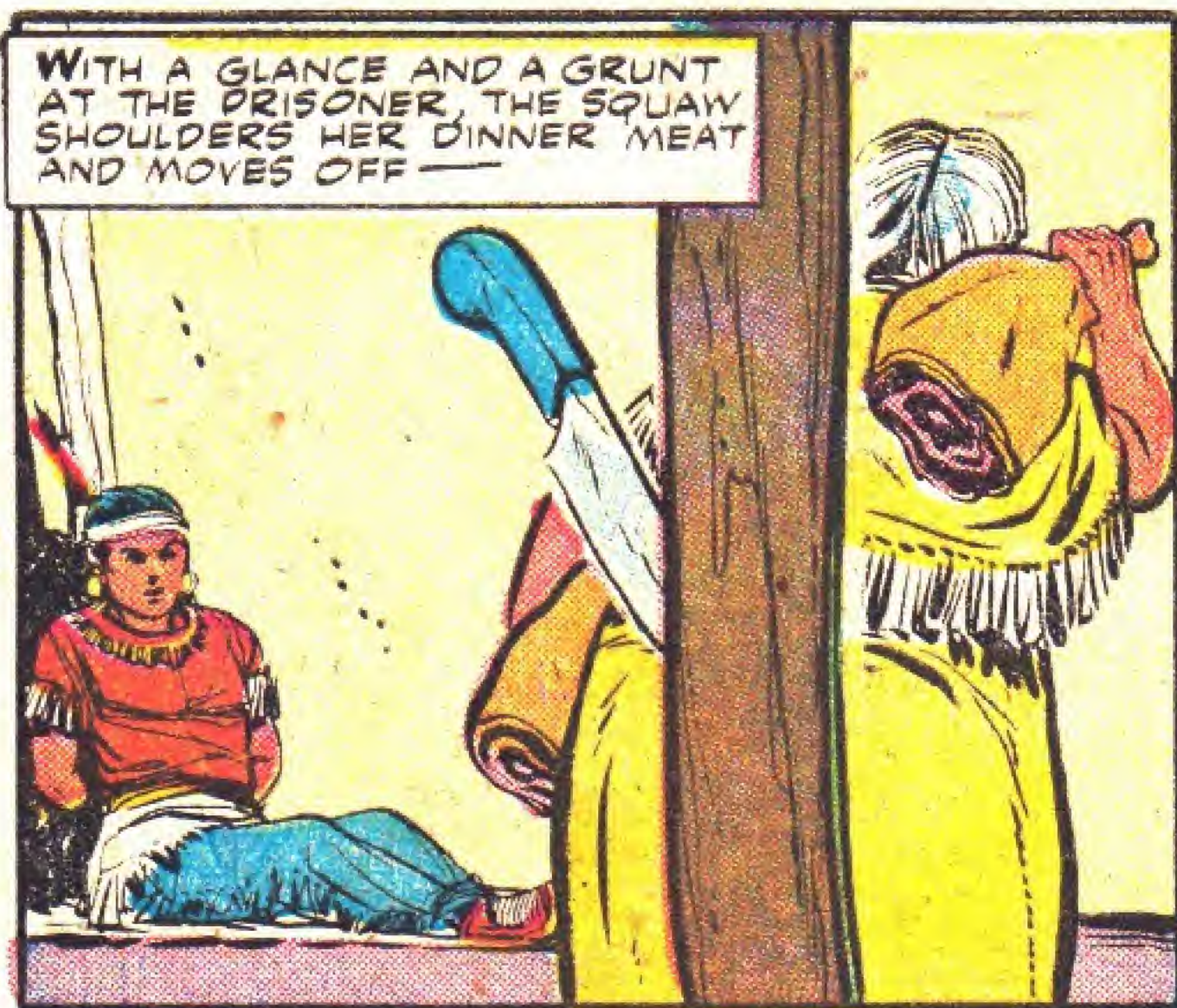
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WITH A GLANCE AND A GRUNT AT THE PRISONER, THE SQUAW SHOULDERS HER DINNER MEAT AND MOVES OFF —



RED HAWK HAS EYES FOR ONLY ONE THING... THE KNIFE THAT THE LIPAN WOMAN FROM FORCE OF HABIT! — LEFT THRUST IN THE MEAT-RACK POLE!

SHE'S SO USED TO LEAVING THE KNIFE THERE THAT SHE FORGOT ABOUT ME! THANKS TO THE GREAT SPIRIT, I HAVE A CHANCE!



IF I CAN LOOSEN AND DROP IT, THEN LIE ON THE GROUND AND ROLL OVER UNTIL I CAN GRIP IT IN MY HANDS —!



I CAN FEEL IT — BITING IN — CUTTING THROUGH!



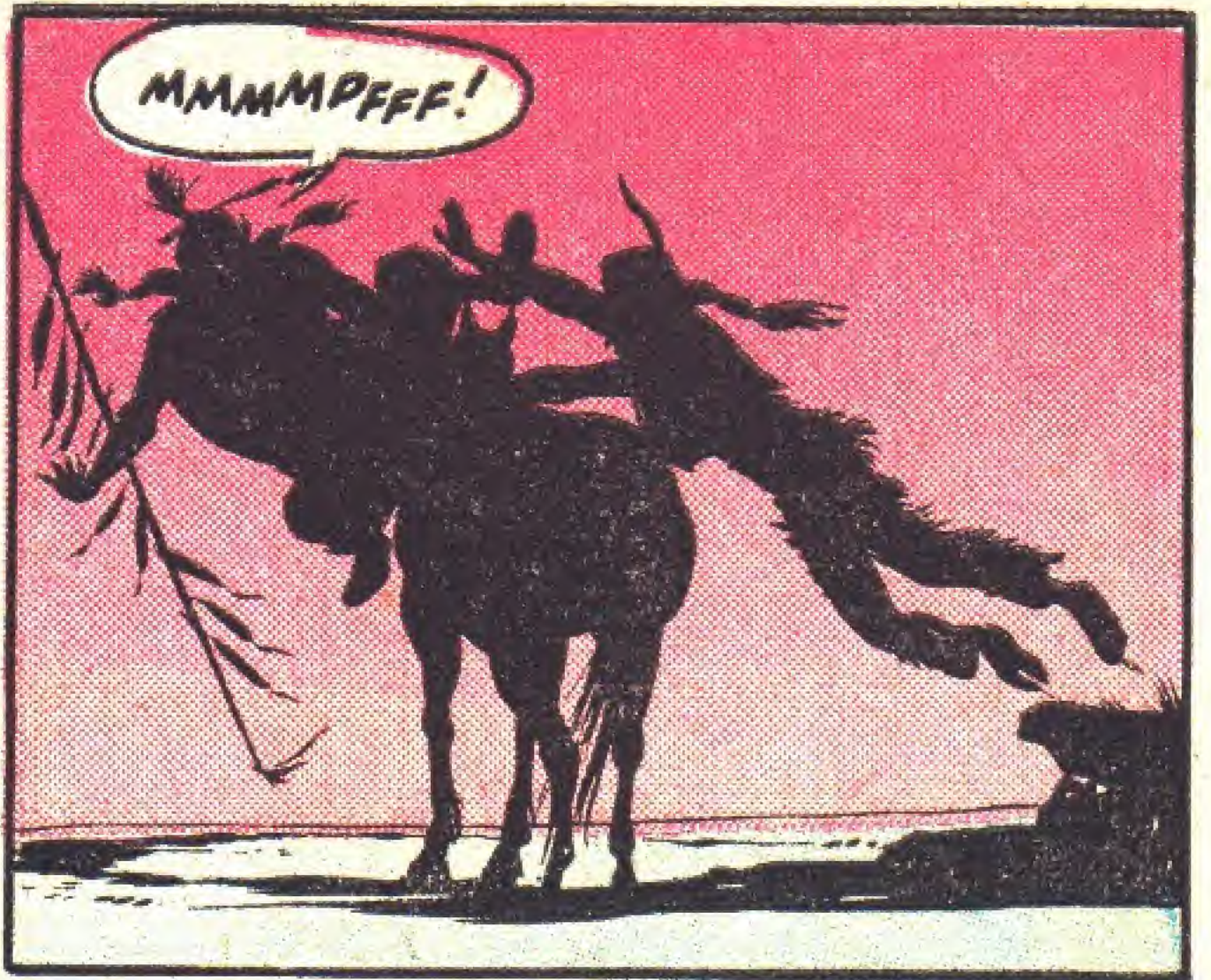
I'VE COME THIS FAR ALL RIGHT — BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW?

AT A LITTLE DISTANCE FROM THE TEPEES AND THE COOKING FIRES IS THE PONY HERD..

THE HERDER'S HALF ASLEEP! I'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS!



MMMMPFFF!



AT THE GALLOP, URGED ON BY RED HAWK'S SHRILL WHOOPING, THE PONY HERD STAMPEDES IN TERROR!

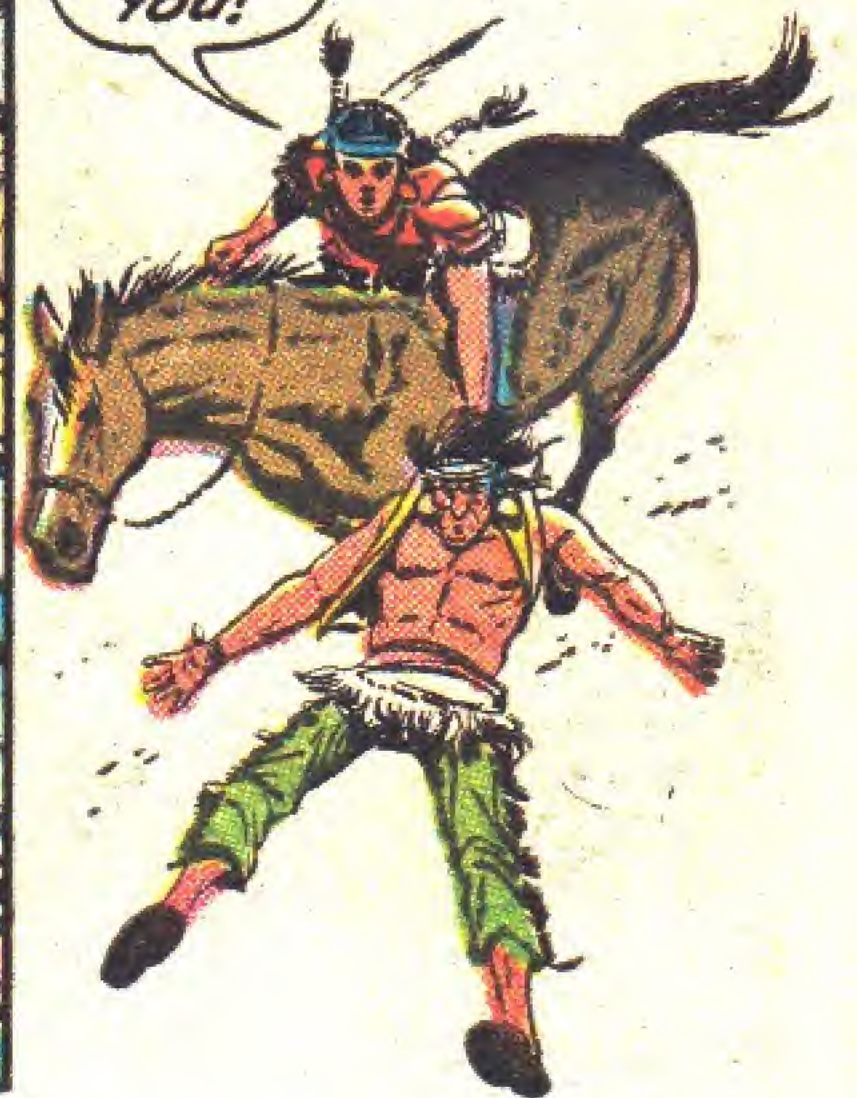


AS THE CHEYENNE WARRIOR DRIVES THEM BETWEEN THE TEPEES, THE LIPAN VILLAGE SCATTERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS!



A WILD-EYED RIDER BENDS FAR OUT FROM HIS PONY'S BACK. HIS HAND STABS DOWN—

COME HERE, YOU!



THERE IS NO PURSUIT. HOW CAN A MAN CHASE A MOUNTED MAN WITHOUT A PONY TO RIDE?



THE END OF THE TRAIL, NEXT DAY—AT THE FEET OF THE CHEYENNE CHIEF!

SLY WOLF IS THE GUILTY MAN. HE SHOT OUR WARRIORS TO STEAL THEIR MEAT AND FURS!

HE WILL BE PUNISHED ACCORDING TO TRIBAL LAW. MY THANKS, RED HAWK, FOR ANOTHER JOB—WELL DONE!



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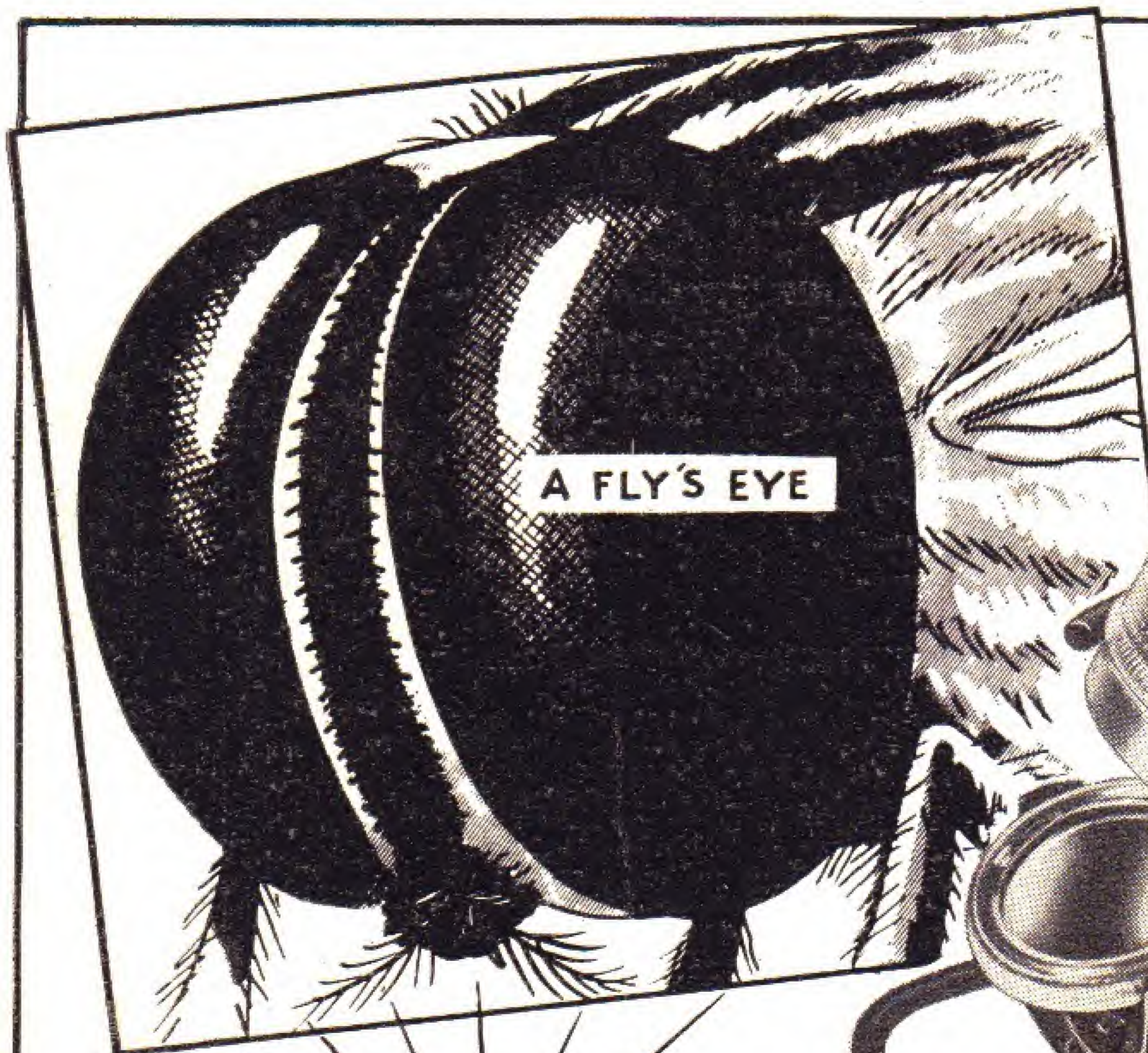
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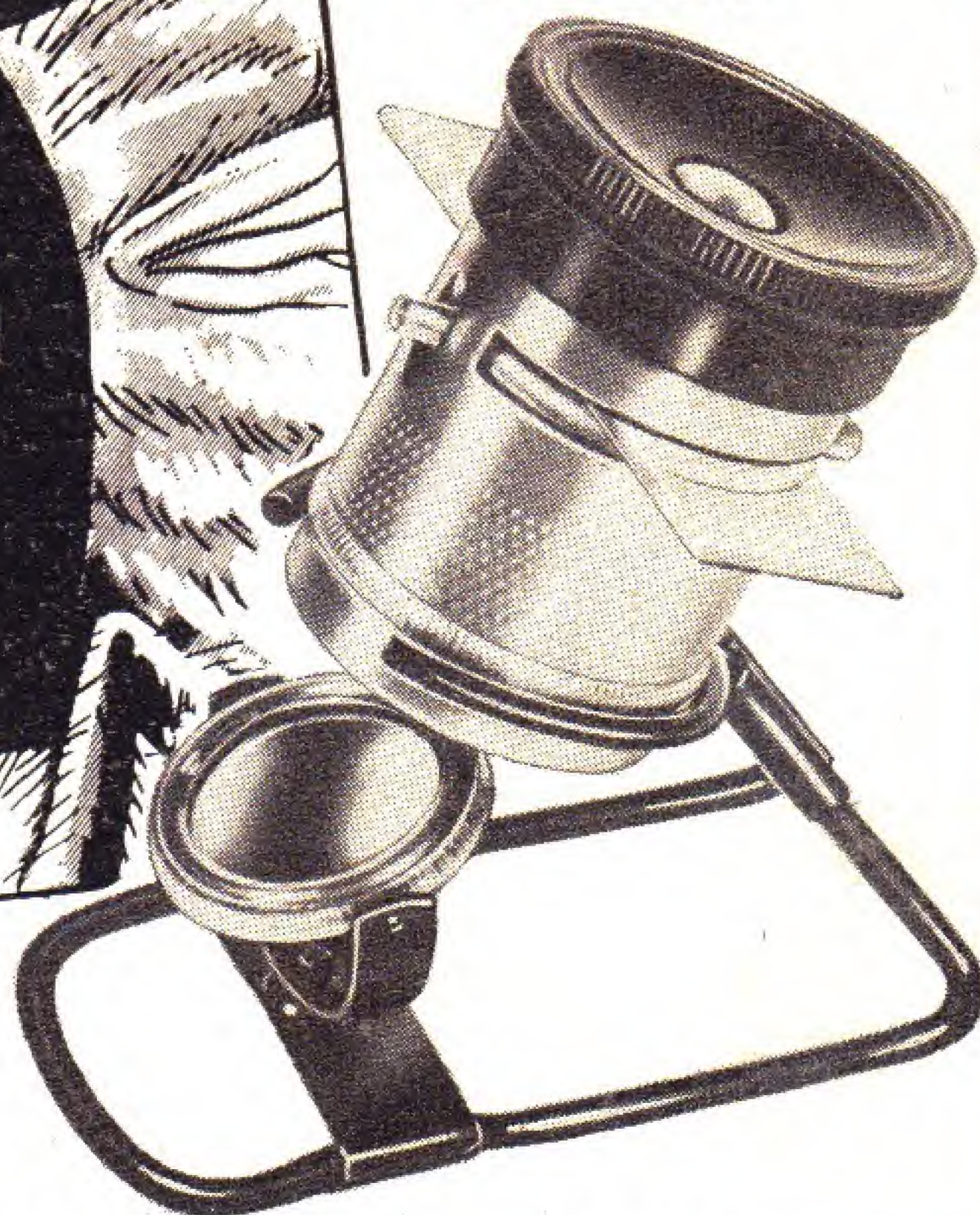
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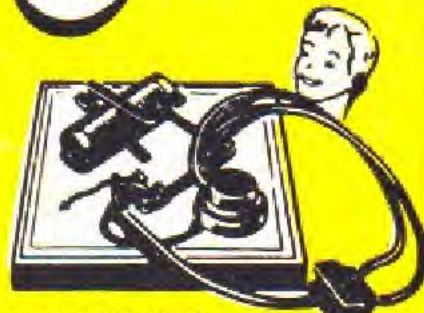
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